



FIS warns of trial 'explosion'

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) said on Friday the trial of its leaders next week could be the start of an "explosion" throughout the country. "The trial is the start of an explosion in the country. The junta is signing its own death. We will strike with force," FIS said in its latest clandestine statement. But communiques number 29, posted overnight on mosque walls in Algiers, held out some hope for reconciliation. "The trial is the last of the bridges to (allow) a Razak Rajman, one copy of the communiqué on a wall in Madania district only 200 metres from the presidency, was framed by FIS slogans. Nearby, armed police on high alert guarded a civilian cleaning off fresh, blood-red graffiti which read: "Police of the despots — you are going to die like pigs." FIS leaders Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj, held for the past year, face charges including aggression and conspiracy against the state. The maximum penalty is death. They are due to face a military court in Blida, 50 kilometres south of the capital, on June 27. Five other senior FIS officials also face lesser charges. Algeria frees some dissidents, page 2.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily
Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية
عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Fadlallah: Israel should free captives

BEIRUT (R) — The spiritual mentor of Lebanon's Hizbollah said he was glad the last Western hostages were free because the saga had caused many problems. Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah said at Friday prayers in Beirut that the world should now push Israel to free hundreds of Arab prisoners held in the Jewish state and in South Lebanon. "Now the Western hostages file in Lebanon has been closed... we are happy at the closing of this file, which in fact had many negative repercussions," said Sheikh Fadlallah. He did not elaborate. German hostages Heinrich Strubeig and Thomas Kempfner were freed on Wednesday after three years in the hands of followers of Abdul Hadi Hamadi, security chief of Hizbollah. "Why doesn't the world stand up for the detainees abducted by Israel?" asked Sheikh Fadlallah. "There is winter and summer under the same roof. When the kidnapped is a Muslim or an Arab there is no problem but when he is Western then everyone denounces (the abduction)," he added. Israel holds some 250 Arabs and wants to exchange them for four Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon or their remains.

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Abu Jaber returns after OIC talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Friday returned home from Ankara after attending an extraordinary session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) on June 17. In an arrival statement, Dr. Abu Jaber said the meeting discussed issues of common interest to the Islamic World, including the repeated Israeli attacks against Lebanon, the civil war in Bosnia, Herzegovina and the situation in Kashmir. On the Palestine question, the conference adopted a resolution confirming earlier resolutions and supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The resolutions also called for the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East region.

Israel slaps down ex-air force chief

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel slapped down its former air force chief on Friday for accusing the United States of not trying to stop Iraqi Scud missile attacks during the Gulf war. "It's unacceptable to me," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told reporters who asked him about the remarks by Avihai Bin-Nun, head of the Jewish state's air force during last year's six-week war over Kuwait and now a reserve general. Defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh told Reuters: "We don't agree with the things that Avihai Bin-Nun said. We have no doubt that the Americans made pretty much effort to destroy the Scuds." Bin-Nun told reporters on Thursday: "The key question is — Did the Americans try to stop the Scud launchings against Israel and Saudi Arabia? It's not that they didn't succeed. They didn't try."

Iraqi talks could stretch

VIENNA (R) — Talks aimed at easing a 22-month United Nations ban on Iraqi oil exports will start on Friday evening and could last until Monday, a U.N. spokesman in Vienna said. The U.N. imposed an economic embargo on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, but is offering to allow limited oil sales to pay for war reparations, U.N. costs and humanitarian aid in checking Iraq's compliance with the ceasefire agreement. The first session in this third round of talks was to begin Friday night, the spokesman said. The U.N. side was headed by Assistant-Secretary General Giamonico Picco, who played a prominent role in securing the release of the last two Western hostages in Beirut earlier this week. Mr. Picco was meeting the Iraqi envoy to the U.N., Abdul Amir Al-Anbani, who leads Baghdad's team. Diplomats and oil industry experts saw only slim chances for success at these talks as they did not expect a shift in the Iraqi position that might break the impasse.

Syrian kills 4 and self

DAMASCUS (AP) — Disfranching after his fiancée broke off their engagement, a 27-year-old Syrian official gunned her down along with three of her relatives, then killed himself, newspapers reported Friday. Ahmad Yasmeish shot to death his fiancée Maysoon Habbal, 24, and her father, agricultural engineer Mohammad Hassan Habbal, 53, as they sat in the father's car on busy Baghdad Avenue on Thursday. The newspapers said Yasmeish then dashed to a nearby building, climbed the stairs to the third floor and broke into Maysoon's apartment where he shot and killed her sister, Lina, 23, and her brother Mohammad, 22. Maysoon's mother, Fayzeh Alloush, 50, and a younger daughter, Lama, whose age was not available, also were wounded. They were rushed to hospital where they were listed in stable condition.

Picco resigning

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Assistant Secretary-General Giamonico Picco, the U.N.'s largest troubleshooter and chief negotiator with Iraq on possible oil sales, is resigning from the United Nations at the end of July for personal reasons, a U.N. spokesman said on Friday.

Palestinians denounce Israeli threat to arrest delegates who met Arafat

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian peace negotiators and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials Friday denounced as unjustified and misguided an Israeli threat that members of the negotiating team to talks with Israel who met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Amman on Thursday would be arrested and tried upon their return to the occupied territories.

The delegates and PLO officials said Israel would be better off giving attention to the requirements of the peace process than concerning itself with issues such as the PLO's role in the peace talks and an Israeli law which effectively bans contacts with the organisation.

Faisal Al Hussein, overall leader of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, chief negotiator, and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the delegation, were among those who attended meeting with Mr. Arafat in Amman Thursday.

Under the gaze of reporters and photographers, Mr. Arafat embraced each of the 14 negotiators and their 12 advisers as they arrived at the guest palace

for a meeting. A special bear hug was accorded to Dr. Ashrawi. Reporters were not allowed to ask any questions, but photographers were given several minutes to take pictures before the meeting started at 7:30 p.m. (1630 GMT).

As the meeting started, Mr. Arafat sat at a round table between Dr. Abdul Shafi, a native of occupied Gaza City, and Mr. Hussein.

Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein were the main negotiators with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker before the start of the peace talks in October.

At Israel's insistence, they were excluded from the negotiating team and allowed to serve only as advisers, mainly because they came from Jerusalem.

Israeli Police Minister Ronni Milo said on Friday Israel would arrest the Palestinians when they returned to the occupied territories.

"Immediately on return to Israel they will be arrested and all the necessary steps will be taken against them," said Mr. Milo.

"There is a difference between rumours heard in the past of consultations with Arafat and a situation when Israeli law is de-

liberately and blatantly violated before the eyes of the world," Mr. Milo said in reply to a question at a meeting with businessmen in Tel Aviv.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman Ehud Gol would not specify whether Israel would bring charges against the negotiators. He said the meeting was "the latest stage of a series of provocations" by Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein, and that "an appropriate response to their behaviour will come." He would not elaborate.

"Never in history has a people been punished for or prevented from meeting its leadership, especially at this crucial stage in peace negotiations when you need, serious decisions," Dr. Ashrawi was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Dr. Ashrawi said: "We hope that when they say appropriate measures, the appropriate measures will be to deal with the peace process appropriately and to understand the requirements of the peace process."

She criticised as irresponsible, unjust and undemocratic the laws against contacts between residents of the occupied territories and the PLO.

Until now, Mr. Shamir's government has turned a blind eye to such contacts as long as they have not been photographed.

Since the process was launched in Madrid last October, Israel has interrogated Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein at least twice about reports that they met PLO officials. They were not arrested, apparently as a result of U.S. pressure.

Dr. Ashrawi said the rules should not apply to Palestinians under occupation, because they were not Israelis. "Nobody has the right to impose on another people who their leadership is and whether or not they should meet with them," she said.

Gazan delegate Zakaria Al Agha urged Russia and the United States, which are sponsoring the peace talks, to take action.

"There is a responsibility for the co-sponsors because the delegation has a right to consult with everyone and because it is irrational to impose such a ban on us," he said.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said: "If they (Israel) apply this

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PLO throws down gauntlet to Israel and U.S. by publicising Amman meeting

By Lannis K. Audoni

BY PUBLICLY chairing a meeting of the Palestinian team to peace talks with Israel, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has decided, once and for all, to end the American-Israeli imposed "invisible role" for the organisation in the seven-month peace process.

The PLO move, which came Thursday, is evidently a calculated risk that reflects the organisation's concern that its role could be effectively marginalised if it does not take action to emphasise that the delegation is not separate from or an alternative body to the organisation.

More importantly, the PLO is testing Israeli and, to an extent, American stands that a public association between the PLO and the Palestinian delegation could undermine the peace process, taking into consideration that Israel has repeatedly threatened to pull out

from the talks if the PLO became directly involved.

It appears that the timing of this unprecedented move — i.e. allowing the meeting to be photographed — was by no means a coincidence. On the eve of this Tuesday's Israeli elections, the PLO is obviously trying to embarrass both the Likud and Labour parties.

NEWS ANALYSIS

On the one hand, the PLO is mocking and discrediting Likud's vows that it would never deal with the PLO or its members; on the other the PLO is also signalling to Labour that there is no escape from dealing with the PLO, directly or indirectly, as the peace process continues.

Most PLO officials, like many analysts, believe that neither Likud nor Labour could secure a majority in the

Israeli parliament and that a coalition government is a more likely possibility. Consequently, a coalition government, the PLO appears to contemplate, will not be able to continue claiming that the PLO is a ghost that looms over the peace talks but is not part of it.

Israeli reactions to Thursday's meeting so far have fallen short of a decision to pull out from the peace talks — a difficult step to take on the eve of the elections. However Tel Aviv has been placed in an awkward position.

The defiant PLO move does not mean that it will lead to the organisation's practical and visible involvement in the talks.

Public Israeli and American statements so far indicate that the U.S. and Israel do not favour any public emphasis on the PLO's role and their main concern is to keep the organisation out of the negotiating room, American analysts say.

For as long as the Israelis are — at least formally — talking to Palestinian delegates from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and not the PLO — as the representative of the Palestinian people everywhere — then it is easier to avoid and evade addressing Palestinian national rights from finding its way to the agenda.

Therefore, while the PLO has succeeded in asserting unequivocally that it still runs the show, it has still a long way to go to assert its direct involvement and transform the negotiations from talks between Israel and the Palestinians under occupation, to talks between Israel and the Palestinian people entitled to nationhood.

The successful PLO stunt is expected to be followed by attempts to broaden the Palestinian representation at the bilateral talks and even-

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Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Thursday holds a meeting with Palestinian delegates to peace talks with Israel. In photos below (left) Mr. Arafat with chief Palestinian negotiator Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi and delegate Saeb Erakat (photos by Youssef Al 'Allan)



Yeltsin takes plea to Canada

OTTAWA (AP) — Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin told the Canadian parliament Friday that Russia has abandoned totalitarianism for democracy and wants to cooperate with Canada in trade and international security. "We have chosen a state of law," said Mr. Yeltsin, who was interrupted repeatedly by applause.

"We know the nightmare of totalitarianism, and that is why we have selected democracy, and why we protected it during those days of August last year," said the Russian president, referring to the defeat of a hardline communist coup.

"Russia has made her choice, on behalf of freedom, and no force will be able to take it away from us," he said.

In his speech to parliament and in his meetings with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Mr. Yeltsin repeated the themes of his remarks earlier this week in Washington: That Russia needs help and money to carry through with its economic and democratic reforms.

He said he realised that Canada may not be able to inject vast amounts of capital into Russia, but that his country would reward investment.

"There are many projects for cooperation on both sides and the time has come to give them the green light," he said.

He repeated his pledge to remain president until 1996, backing his government of young reformers. Mr. Yeltsin, 61, has said he will not stand for reelection when his five-year term expires.

Mr. Yeltsin began his day by laying a wreath at Canada's war memorial and then was welcomed to the parliament building by Mr. Mulroney.

The Russian president, who arrived in Ottawa on Thursday night, looked fresh and upbeat despite a gruelling swing through the United States, where he

(Continued on page 2)

UNHRC seeks members' views on Arab request

GENEVA (Agencies) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has asked member states to rule on an Arab request to hold emergency talks on rights abuses in the Israeli-occupied territories, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

Spokesman Pierre Mehu said the United Nations transmitted the request, made by the Arab League last week, to diplomatic missions in Geneva on Thursday. If the idea wins the support of 27 of the commission's 53 members by next Wednesday, then an unprecedented special session would be held in Geneva from July 6-8, he added.

Eight commission members, the six Arab League states plus Iran and Pakistan, have already backed the meeting. The body usually holds just one six-week session at the start of the year.

The Arab League request for a special meeting is the first since the rules allowing the commission to hold extraordinary sessions were fixed in 1990.

It made the request in a letter to U.N. rights chief Antoine Blanca which spoke of "the dangerous deterioration of the human rights situation in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, especially in Gaza Strip which the Israeli occupation authorities have blockaded and

considered as a closed military area."

"This endangers the lives of more than 700,000 Palestinians, owing to the critical shortage in food and medical supplies which has endured for many months already," it added.

The league, which has 21 members including Palestine, said Israel had rejected repeated U.N. resolutions on human rights in the occupied territories and refused to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to civilians there.

Although the commission has consistently condemned Israel since its 1967 occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and Arab East Jerusalem, it is not clear if the Arab request will find the majority it needs.

In past sessions of the commission, Israel's strongest support has come from the United States. A strongly-worded resolution at this year's session was backed by 30 nations.

But diplomatic sources said that some developing nations which could usually be expected to support the resolution — for example China — might be reluctant to do so because it would set a precedent that could later be used against them.

Hawatmeh urges new look at Mideast peace process

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Nayef Hawatmeh has urged the Palestinians and Arab parties involved in the Mideast peace process to take advantage of the interim period ahead of the next round of talks to reassess and strengthen strategy through reunifying the Palestinian political ranks and improving Arab coordination.

Mr. Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), also warned that if the talks continued on the "wrong track, then Palestinian 'rage' inside the occupied territories would explode.

In an interview with the Jordan Times on Thursday evening, Mr. Hawatmeh called for an end to inter-Palestinian political divisions, particularly inside the occupied territories where Palestinian-Palestinian violence has become uncontrollable despite pleas made by leaders.

Mr. Hawatmeh, whose group is not participating in the Arab-Israeli peace talks because of its rejection of Israeli-American conditions imposed on Palestinian participation, said from his Amman hotel room that while waiting for the formation of the

new Israeli government after this week's elections, the Arab participants in the peace talks should reevaluate the direction in which the peace talks are heading.

"We should be critical and constructive in discovering the possibility of investing in this last time that will serve the Palestinian people and the Arab countries to correct the next bilateral and multilateral negotiations," Mr. Hawatmeh stressed.

He called on Palestinian political reunification according to the programme of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "based on a wide-ranged coalition front with democratic dialogue among the entire Palestinian people in order to reach a national common denominator based on international legitimacy with a commitment from all Palestinian parties."

Mr. Hawatmeh said that the peace talks so far have been distant from international resolutions, mainly Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, adding that the only reference of the talks were based on the American letter of assurances before the talks were launched in Madrid last October.

The Palestinian leader, who

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Khalil Salem, Jordanian statesman, passes away

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Minister of Finance and Central Bank Governor Khalil Salem passed away Friday at the age of 71. Until his death, Dr. Salem had also served as a member of the Upper House and was chairman of its Finance Committee.

Dr. Salem had been under intensive care at the King Hussein Medical Centre for eight days, prior to his death, having suffered a stroke described by doctors as cerebrovascular accident.

Dr. Salem was born in Husn in northern Jordan in 1921. He graduated from the American University of Beirut and pursued further studies at London University and then at the University of Columbia in New York, where he obtained a doctorate in education in 1960.

He taught mathematics at the secondary school in Salt for a number of years before he went into public service.

Dr. Salem served as minister in several Jordanian cabinets and was the founder of the Central Bank of Jordan, which he served as governor for many years. Dr. Salem had also served as Jordan's ambassador to France.

Many Jordanians viewed him as a charismatic statesman, who worked hard and intelligently in the service of his country. They shared a belief with him that he would have been appointed prime minister had he not been born a Christian.

While the Jordanian Constitution does not say that a non-Muslim cannot become prime minister, by tradition it was always a Muslim who headed the Kingdom's successive governments. Rashid Talee, a druze, was the only non-Sunni Muslim who had served as prime minister in modern Jordan.

After his departure from active public life, Dr. Salem went into banking and served as director of several financial institutions.

He also served as chairman of the Jordan Press Foundation, publishers of the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, for over one year between 1988 and 1989.

Dr. Salem is survived by his wife and five children, two sons and three daughters. He will be laid to rest in his birthplace, near Irbid, this afternoon.

Iraq denounces U.N. step on Kuwait border

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.N. decision against Iraq on its border with Kuwait "planted a landmine ready to explode," Al Thawra, the daily newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said Friday.

The Security Council on Wednesday rebuffed Iraq's complaints that a border commission set up under Gulf war ceasefire terms had given Kuwait six wells previously controlled by Iraq in the shared Rumaila oilfield and part of Iraq's Um Qasr naval base.

Al Thawra said the findings of the commission did not "contribute to the reinstatement of security and stability in the region... it rather creates a nucleus for tension and plants a landmine ready to explode."

"The commission's decision are null and void because they are based on falsehood and violation of law and logic," it said.

Al Qadisiyah, the Defence Ministry newspaper, said the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq border "reflects the shallowness of the U.S. administration's mentality."

"Funny statements and resolutions like these have no power to

obliterate facts of history and geography."

The Security Council's ceasefire resolution, passed in April 1991 and accepted by Iraq, required Iraq and Kuwait to respect a 1963 border that Baghdad says it never ratified.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer sent a 57-page letter to the Security Council this month saying the border commission's decisions were illegitimate and dangerous.

Repeating an argument used at the time of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he said the emirate was an integral part of Basra under the Ottoman empire and that no Iraqi government had agreed to demarcate borders with it.

The council replied with a rebuttal, saying the protest "appears to call into question Iraq's adherence" to Gulf war ceasefire terms.

Al Thawra said the Iraqi letter "illustrates in clear terms that Iraq never accepted in the past any formula to demarcate borders (with Kuwait)."

Al Thawra said the 1963 border agreement was "just paper, without any legal value."



A refugee camp housing Somalis who fled the recent fighting in the capital, Mogadishu. (Photo by Lina Nahl)

Thousands of Somali children dying daily

NAIROBI (AP) — As many as 5,000 Somali children under the age of five are now dying daily from starvation, a U.N. envoy has said.

"I've never seen a worse situation," said Mohammed Sahnoun, a U.N. under-secretary and special representative to Somalia.

He did not estimate the total number of daily starvation victims in the drought stricken nation, but said the situation was worse than the 1984-86 drought and famine in Ethiopia when an estimated one million people died.

"I think there has been an erosion of human sympathy. People are overwhelmed by the human tragedies around the world," he said. "Much more needs to be done. Much more."

One bright point does exist. Security in the civil war-ravaged nation has improved.

Since rival clans fighting for control of Somalia's capital halted their combat in March and reopened the city's port in May, U.N., Red Cross, and Saudi Arabian ships have delivered 23,000 tonnes of relief food to Mogadishu.

However, Mr. Sahnoun said an immediate infusion of 50,000 tonnes of food is needed by the city's more than one million people and by those in camps of displaced people north and south of Mogadishu.

Meanwhile, vast parts of the Horn of Africa country's north, centre and south have received no assistance whatsoever, he said.

"We are very far from the minimum requirements to alleviate the emergency situation in terms of starvation and hunger," said Mr. Sahnoun, who was assigned to Somalia in May to help stop the fighting, aid national

reconciliation and identify and publicise humanitarian needs.

Aid officials estimate 4.5 million people in Somalia are threatened with starvation due to general deprivation, months of clan warfare which prevented food imports and a regional drought.

Mr. Sahnoun, who returned Sunday from a weeklong tour of Somalia, said that during a visit to the southern port city of Kisumu, "I saw kids die with my own eyes" and mothers who were skin and bones.

He said U.N. bureaucracy, poor donor response, the lack of a specific humanitarian appeal for Somalia, inadequate involvement by aid agencies and inadequate media coverage of the tragedy are to blame for the insufficient aid.

Looting and banditry continue across the nation, but armed conflicts have stopped everywhere but in Somalia's southwest where

remnants of deposed dictator Mohammad Siad Barre's forces are battling troops loyal to General Mohammed Farrah Aidid, Mr. Sahnoun said.

He said the situation was worsened by the lack of any government or services.

After United Somali Congress rebels drove Mr. Siad Barre from power in January 1991, all government collapsed and basic services such as electricity, sanitation, water and communication quickly disintegrated.

"It is worse than one could imagine. It is absolutely chaotic," said Mr. Sahnoun.

Hundreds of thousands of Somalis have fled to refugee camps in neighbouring Kenya and Ethiopia where many arrive weak and malnourished. About 100 refugees are dying daily in the Kenya camps, alone, say refugee officials.

Israel offers large tax benefits to settlers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Tax benefits granted to Jewish settlers over the past decade have cost the government \$200 million, a research institute said Thursday.

A study by the Policy Data and Information Bureau said Jewish settlers get a seven per cent discount on their income tax and pay lower sales tax on real estate purchases than most other Israelis.

Israelis working in the occupied territories but living inside Israel also are eligible for the seven per cent income tax reduction, the bureau said.

Finance ministry spokesman Ariel Gruenblatt conceded the settlers get the income tax break, but said it was part of a programme to give benefits to all Israelis living in "underdeveloped outlying areas."

Also Thursday, the left-wing Peace Now movement said that the government started building 2,500 new housing units in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since May, bringing the number under construction to 4,000 since January.

Housing ministry spokesman Shaya Segal could not be immediately reached for comment on the report.

Israel's push to build more settlement housing in the occupied territories has caused tensions with its chief ally, the United States, which sees the build-up as an obstacle to a land for peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In its study, the private Policy Data and Information Bureau noted designating settlements as outlying areas was a "cynical use" of the term since many are within commuting distance of occupied Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

"The tax benefits are an important physical tool in the hands of the government and expressed, among other things, its economic, social and political priorities," the bureau study said.

In addition to income tax benefits, Jewish settlers buying "homes" in the occupied territories pay a half per cent sales tax, while inside Israel the rate rises from 1/2 per cent to 4 1/2 per cent according to the price of the homes, the study said.

Shiite leader attacks Iraq opposition talks

AL KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia (R) — A leading Iraqi Shiite Muslim opposition leader has said a meeting of anti-Baghdad dissidents in Vienna lacked unity and was poorly prepared.

"The Vienna meeting does not assure the unity of the opposition and does not represent the unity of the Iraqi people," the leader of the Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), Mohammad Baqir Hakim, told Reuters in an interview on Thursday.

Sheikh Hakim is in Saudi Arabia after performing the Hajj.

He said the SCIRI did not take part in the Vienna meeting because "there was no consensus on the basic and essential issues and it lacked good preparation."

Iraqi opposition activists began a four-day meeting in Vienna on Tuesday to plan the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein.

But Sheikh Hakim said: "We side with any act against Saddam's regime and support any action that maintains the unity of Iraqi opposition."

More than 60 Iraqi groups seek President Saddam's fall, but there has been little coordination among them, with Kurds, Sunnis, Shiites and Christians all jostling for position.

Sheikh Hakim said Muslim opposition groups had agreed not to attend the Vienna meeting.

Sheikh Hakim, who visited Saudi Arabia last February and met King Fahd, said the SCIRI tried to improve relations with the kingdom long time ago.

"But we believe the improvement of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran has affected our openness to the kingdom and that we have played a role in the Iranian-Saudi rapprochement."

Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia warmed after the end of the Iraq-Iran war in 1988 and improved when Tehran opposed Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Sheikh Hakim rejected a U.S. intelligence report which said President Saddam was stronger than a year ago.

"I expect the fall of Saddam and his regime at any time and at any moment because Saddam's regime has been unable to stand in the face of the Jihad movement in southern Iraq," he said.

Thousands of Iraqi Shiites sought refuge in marches in southern Iraq after Baghdad crushed their post-Gulf war rebellion.

Pardons for rebels

President Saddam Hussein has pardoned Iraqi soldiers captured by Iran who Iraq says were recruited to the ranks of rebel bands by the Tehran government.

"President Saddam Hussein has ordered the release of prisoners of war who were misled by the Iranian authorities," the Iraqi News Agency reported, referring to "renegades who handed themselves over to our valiant troops."

Iraqi troops captured large numbers of rebel soldiers during the Shiite rebellion in southern Iraq in March last year.

Iraq, which accused Iran of fomenting the rebellion, says Tehran recruited Iraqi soldiers captured during the 1980-88 war to the ranks of anti-Saddam groups based in Iran.

The agency said the amnesty would also apply to rebel soldiers who were still at large but did not say how many captured rebels would be set free.

Iraqi paper criticises Libyan anti-Arabism

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An official Iraqi newspaper criticised the Libyan press for questioning Libya's longstanding commitment to the cause of Arab unity.

Al Thawra, published by the ruling Baath Party, said it feared the anti-Arabism campaign in the Libyan media might lead to wrong decisions and harm the Libyan people.

The Libyan newspaper Al Janahiriya has been running a series of articles saying the pan-Arab ideals of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi were misguided and Libyans would do better to look after their own national interests first.

Qaddafi's article said Libya should reduce economic ties with Arab

and Muslim states and align itself with the West to obtain modern technology.

Al Thawra said in a signed editorial: "Accusing everybody... is wrong and dangerous... (Tripoli) should identify the enemies of the Libyan people and not make Arabs the target of its accusations."

"Targeting random accusations at Arabs and Arabism in a nervous manner may harm the issue of the Libyan people."

Arab unity is the cornerstone of Baath Party ideology.

Britain switches position

In another development, British Prime Minister John Major

said Britain is not convinced that Libya has stopped supporting the Irish Republican Army (IRA) despite giving British officials information about past links.

Earlier, the Foreign Office said information given by a Libyan delegation in a two-hour meeting with British officials in Geneva on June 9 contained "positive elements which may prove helpful."

But the Foreign office, which refused to give details, also said the Libyan information was "incomplete and unsatisfactory" in places.

Questioned in the House of Commons, Mr. Major said Libya "indicated it would wish to cease

providing assistance to the IRA."

"We are not ourselves convinced that it is in fact as yet the case," he added.

Britain says Libya's willingness to discuss IRA links will not soften support for U.N. sanctions against Libya.

They were imposed in April because of Libya's refusal to extradite two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103.

Libya's IRA link was exposed in 1987 when French customs officers seized an Irish freighter, the Elsmo, loaded with Libyan arms bound for the outlawed movement.

The IRA is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Habash says 'highest levels' approved his Paris visit

PARIS (AP) — Palestinian leader George Habash said that the "highest levels" of French government approved his visit to France for medical treatment, creating a major scandal that cost five high-ranking officials their jobs.

Dr. Habash told the French television network TF-1 in an interview that Tuesday that Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat personally arranged his trip in January to a Paris hospital.

"I entered France in a legal fashion, and this was prepared at the highest levels," Dr. Habash said in the interview, taped last week in Damascus. "My hospitalisation... could not have taken place without sure guarantees."

The nature of Dr. Habash's malady was never confirmed, but he was widely believed to have suffered a stroke. In the interview, he appeared in good health but had trouble speaking.

A huge uproar broke out in January hours after a chartered medical plane brought Dr. Habash to Paris from Tunisia, where the PLO is headquartered.

Leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Dr. Habash was labelled a "terrorist" by law enforcement officials and lawmakers from all major parties.

President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who were out of the country when Dr. Habash arrived, claimed to have no prior knowledge of his visit. Five high-ranking civil servants who arranged it, including the head of the French Red Cross, were forced to resign.

France expelled Dr. Habash four days after he arrived. He refused to answer an investigator's questions on a suspected PFLP arms cache discovered in a forest several years ago. No international warrants were outstanding for his arrest.

Yeltsin takes plea to Canada

(Continued from page 1)

signed a deal to slash nuclear arsenals, delivered an eloquent plea to Congress to endorse a \$24 billion Western aid package and travelled to Wichita, Kansas, for a day.

Backing from the United States and Canada would strengthen Mr. Yeltsin's hand when he travels next month to Munich, Germany, to meet with leaders of the seven richest democracies to secure the Western credits and

aid.

On arriving in Ottawa, the Russian president had warm words for his Canadian hosts, saying they were "sincere and reliable partners." But Mr. Yeltsin told his hosts that Canadian industry "should have more courage and begin practical exploration of the Russian market."

Mr. Yeltsin and his wife, Naina, dined Thursday night with Mr. Mulroney and his wife, spokeswoman said.

Greek jetfighter crashes after trying to intercept Turkish jet

ATHENS (AP) — Greece has blamed Turkey for the death of a Greek pilot who crashed while trying to intercept a pair of Turkish F-16s that allegedly entered Greek airspace.

The Turkish planes "were in violation of national airspace and international flight principles of civil aviation," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Dimitris Avramopoulos.

He stressed "that the accident was caused by Turkey's persistence in continuing its provocative tactic" of entering airspace that Greece considers its own.

Two fighter jets from a Greek air base on Skiros Island were involved in the interception effort over the Aegean Sea, said air force spokesman Pavlos Sissas.

"During the interception they engaged the other aircraft, and the Greek jet crashed, killing the pilot," Colonel Sissas said.

The pilot was identified as Nikolaos Sialmas, 26.

Greek and Turkish jetfighters often engage in mock dogfights over the Aegean after alleged violations of Greek airspace. The two NATO allies have longstanding disputes over airspace and military control of the Aegean Sea as well as its seabed mineral rights.

Earlier, Defence Minister Ioannis Varvitiotis said Greece sent a strong protest to NATO about the incident and delivered a similar protest to Turkey's NATO representative. But a government spokesman, Vasillis

Magginas, said the accident would not affect efforts to improve relations with Turkey.

A spokesman for the Turkish general staff said Turkish pilots in the area witnessed the crash of the Mirage-1 but did not know if the pilot, seen ejecting, had survived.

"There had been no dog fight. The incident occurred when the Greek planes were engaged in their routine harassment of the Turkish jets over the Aegean," the spokesman told the Associated Press.

Premier Suleyman Demirel dismissed any responsibility for the incident.

"It's their own fault, not ours," Mr. Demirel told reporters, blaming the Greek practice of

sending interceptors whenever Turkish jets exercised over the Aegean.

Turkey rejects Greece's claim to a 16-kilometre national airspace and Turkish jets on manoeuvres often approach as close as 10 kilometres to Greek coast.

The two countries are also at loggerheads over the Cyprus problem, the Greek fortification of some islands off the Turkish coast and the status of minorities in eastern Greece and Istanbul.

Mr. Demirel and his Greek counterpart Constantine Mitsotakis agreed in Switzerland last February to conclude a non-aggression pact between the two countries.

The two are expected to meet in Istanbul next week.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:30	Los Tormentes Naja
18:35	Interrogation
18:40	La Gymnastique
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	Super Bloopers
20:30	Encounter
21:00	News in English
21:20	Feature Film: "Men For Murder"
PRAYER TIMES	
03:51	Fajr
05:25	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:36	Dhuhr
16:16	'Asr
19:47	Maghrib
21:22	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellfish, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632783	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Tormentosa Church Tel. 622266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and windy with be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Mia/Mex. temp. 17/29	
Aqaba 23/36	
Djaza 13/30	
Jordan Valley 18/35	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Saleh Tannous	889903
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala	696048
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawra	732056
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	646070
Firm pharmacy	661912
Farid pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairoch pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	630730
Yasrab pharmacy	644945
Shimrani pharmacy	637660
IBRD:	
Dr. Mohammed Al Bannayan	(-)
Al Shamsa pharmacy	(773825)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushashch	(-)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	78121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Police Complaints	635800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	637055
Complaints	87467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	773111
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hannan Medical Centre	813813/52
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsat	6641714
Shamsat Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munasher Hospital	6672719
The Islamic, Abdali	66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Indian, Al-Madajra	7771013
Al-Badri, J. Amman	773111/26
Army, Marja	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)985732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)990990
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3320-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
06:30	Dhahran (RJ)
08:30	Cairo (RJ)
10:30	Aqaba (RJ)
10:40	New Delhi (RJ)
10:45	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:20	Colombo (RJ)
11:30	Beirut (RJ)
17:30	London (RJ)
19:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:25	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
05:45	Cyprus (CY)
09:15	Beirut (ME)
12:30	Sana (Y)
23:30	Damascus, Paris (AF)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg	
Apple (red)	700/600
Banana	300/450
Banana (Mushroom)	350/300
Beetroot	300/250
Broad bean	220/200
Cabbage	120/100
Carrot	220/180
Cauliflower	110/80
Cucumber (large)	100/70
Cucumber (small)	80/60
Eggplant	150/70
Garlic (green)	320/250
Leek	600/500
Marrow (large)	100/50
Marrow (small)	170/120
Onion (dry)	100/80
Onion (green)	120/100
Orange	300/250
Potato	200/150
Pea	280/220
Pepper (hot)	200/150
Pepper (sweet)	280/220
Potato	210/150
Spinach	150/100
Sage	170/100
Tomato	100/80

JORDAN TIMES	
TEL. 667171	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
11:30	Sana (Y)
12:30	Paris (AF)
19:20	Rome, Beirut (AZ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:15	Beirut (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
10:40	Vienna (RJ)
12:30	Buenos Aires (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:50	Geneva, Paris (RJ)
13:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
19:00	Feldkirch (RJ)
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30	Beirut, Doha (RJ)

Japanese firm to build fertilizer plant in Jordan

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese agriculture group said Thursday it would join local interests to build a fertilizer manufacturing plant in Jordan by 1995 at an estimated investment of more than DLRs 50 million.

Motoshi Muranaka of the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations said the plant, capable of producing 300,000 tonnes of compound fertilizers and ammonium phosphates a year, would be built in Aqaba, about 350 kilometres (210 miles) southwest of Amman. All of the fertilizer produced there would be exported to Japan, he said.

Under a formal agreement to be signed next month, Muranaka said, a joint venture will be established by Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. and Arab Potash Co., both of Jordan, and three other Japanese companies — Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsubishi Kasei Corp. and Asahi Industries Co. The venture is to be capitalized at DLRs 24 million and owned 30 per cent by the federation, 10 per cent each by the three Japanese firms and 40 per cent by Jordan Phosphate Mines and Arab Potash, Muranaka said.

Kabariti urges ILO to stop Israeli abuse

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference in Geneva has returned to Amman after taking part in deliberations about worker-related issues around the world, including the Israeli-occupied territories.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, who led the delegation, said in a statement that the discussions covered issues of democracy and labour in several nations.

"The minister said a special meeting was held last week to discuss the abuse and conditions of Arab workers and unions under Israeli military rule."

In his address to the meeting, Mr. Kabariti noted Israel's human rights violations, determination to build illegal settlements in the occupied territories and inhumane treatment of workers and their unions.

Mr. Kabariti said Israel continued to confiscate Arab land, destroy Arab homes and farms, steal Arab water, arrest labour unionists and kill, detain and expel civilians.

The minister reiterated Jordan's appeal to the world organization that it enforce the conditions of the Geneva Convention and try to pressure Israel to end its abuse and occupation of Arab land and comply with the requirements of peace and security. The minister noted that unless Israel abides by the U.N. principles and international laws and exchanges peace for land it would continue to be an destabilising factor in the Middle East. In other words, the minister said, "Israel cannot have its cake, eat it and sit on it at the same time."

The minister pointed out that ILO inspection teams had visited the Middle East and gathered information about Israel's human rights violations and the inhumane condition of Arab workers in Palestine.

Petra Bank liquidation extended

By Ziad Al Shileh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Board of Directors of The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has extended the liquidation period of the defunct Petra Bank for another two years, ending in July 1994.

Sources for the committee in charge of liquidation said the committee had no intentions to offer any incentives to bank debtors to encourage them pay their debts. They added that the committee had taken the necessary measures to recover the bank's debts in accordance with the powers given to it by the Economic Security Committee's decision No. 490.

The committee has so far recovered some JD 150 million yet to be recovered from 2,000 debtors. It also finally closed more than 21,000 debit accounts, in addition to 1,400 guarantee entries worth JD 35 million, leaving only 50 entries unsettled. The committee also succeeded in closing entries of 157 letters of credits with a total value of JD 12 million.

The committee also settled 13,000 outstanding records with internal and external banks, with a total value of some JD 300 million.

Low-income housing projects to be built

AMMAN (Petra) — Local Jordanian firms have won contracts worth JD1.06 million to build three housing estates for limited income families at Ruseifah, north of Amman, a district south of Amman and an extension of an existing housing estate.

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Director Youssef Hyatt signed contracts with the three different firms Thursday that will build the homes together with their infrastructure and basic services.

One of the firms will build the housing estate at Ruseifah at a cost of JD650,000 on a total of 316 plots of land covering 100 dunams. This project also entails laying a 650-metre network of

water pipes and drains, a 400-metre long sewer and asphalted 15,000 square metres of roads. The firm will also install electricity and telephone lines and build public gardens.

The second project, in a district south of Amman, entails building housing units at a cost of JD310,000, together with roads, sewers, and electricity networks.

The third project entails expanding the existing Ruseifah housing estate at a cost of JD100,000. This project also includes laying water and sewer pipes, building gardens and public squares and asphalted roads.

The projects will start immediately.



Crown Prince Hassan presents award to a recent graduate

Prince Hassan lauds PSD's efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan praised the Public Security Department (PSD) and its national branches for their efforts to ensure security and stability in Jordan despite very difficult circumstances.

Addressing a ceremony in Zarqa for the graduation of new male and female police officers, the Crown Prince said that deepening internal security is difficult because of social and economic changes in the country over the past three years. He said that the return of about 300,000 expatriates from the Gulf has increased the country's population by about one tenth, giving police more responsibility.

Prince Hassan praised the high level of training at PSD branches, which he said would contribute to better performance at all levels.

The graduates received their diplomas from Prince Hassan, who also distributed awards to those who excelled in their training.

The recruits have trained rigorously in the field with several kinds of weapons, in addition to theoretical work and lectures on police work.

Jordan, Turkey to talk more trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Turkish Economic Committee is to open a meeting in Amman on Monday to review past achievements and to chart plans for future cooperation in trade and economics.

A spokesman at the Turkish embassy here said that the Turkish Minister of State, Erman Sahin, was scheduled to arrive Sunday for the four-day meeting.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Sahin will meet mainly Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Esenour, focusing on ways to increase trade between Turkey and Jordan and in questions related to Turkey's contribution to the restoration of Islamic archaeological places in the country. Petra said that the talks will also cover the possibility of launching a joint Turkish-Jordanian investment company to benefit from Turkish expertise especially in agriculture, maintenance of agricultural equipment and overcoming problems of Jordan's participation in international trade fairs in Turkey.

The last high level talks between Ankara and Amman were held in May 1991 when the Jordanian foreign minister met with the Turkish president in Ankara to discuss politics and commerce.

Amman's ADC team returns from conference

By Cosima Hadidi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the local chapter of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) returned from a Washington conference and brought back not only a wealth of information and contacts, but also an award for outstanding performance, honoring the result it has achieved during its short term of existence of little over one year.

The ninth national ADC convention, entitled "Civil Rights at home-Human Rights abroad," had major Arab-American political thinkers and activists, among its more than 3,000 participants.

Highlights of the conference included a speech by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a panel on the current peace talks consisting of the heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese negotiating teams, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, Dr. Mowaffac Al Arafat and Souheil Chamoun.

"We also had the chance to witness the lobbying procedures in Congress," said Dr. Aida Dabbas, ADC volunteer. "This was important to see because it is the most effective way of influencing congressmen and senators."

Haya Awad, office manager of the ADC, said that the ADC in the United States, which was established a long time ago has been effective in confronting the Zionist lobby. "For example, the ADC worked hard at defeating the \$10 billion in loan guarantees which Israel had requested and is partially responsible for the defeat of this request," she said.

One project that aims to create a better understanding of the Arab point of view is the Writer's Committee. In this project, the ADC office collects articles by local writers and sends them to the United States for publication in newspapers. "Over 400 writers have expressed their interest so far," said Dr. Dabbas. "We are focusing on this project because of the importance of getting the Arab voice heard in the American media."

Another bridge between Jordan and the United States created by the ADC is an exhibit of 120 children's paintings by students of UNRWA schools in Jordan. "We took the paintings with us to Washington where they were exhibited for the duration of the convention," said Ms. Awad. "Now the exhibit is touring the United States and has received an excellent response so far."

Israeli restrictions delay crossing of pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Friday urged Palestinian pilgrims returning from Mecca to go to Ghor Al Nimreen Pilgrims City Saturday to prepare for Sunday's crossing of King Hussein Bridge to the occupied West Bank.

The PSD said that other pilgrims from the occupied West Bank and Gaza will leave on Monday and Tuesday on June 22 and 23.

The new arrangements were warranted by the restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on the numbers of people allowed to cross into the occupied territories. The PSD called on people whose permits expire during the next three days to renew them at the bridge's police department. The PSD said people who booked for travel to the occupied West Bank and Gaza from June 21 to July 2, will be delayed between three and five days. For example people who booked for travel Sunday June 21, will travel on Wednesday June 24. Those who were supposed to leave on Monday June 22 will leave on Thursday June 25, while those who booked for Tuesday June 23, will leave on Sunday June 28.

Japan is one of the largest donors to UNRWA's regular and emergency programmes. In 1991, Japan's total contribution of more than \$27.2 million was the second largest contribution UNRWA received from a government. Ambassador Kume said, "we consider food aid an essential part of our contribution to UNRWA's programmes and we therefore intend to continue this support in addition to our cash contribution."

Tubeishat says Earth Summit reached conciliatory results

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat said Thursday that the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro from June 3 to 14, reached conciliatory results because of the differences among the various international groups taking part in the conference, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Dr. Tubeishat, who returned home Thursday after heading the Jordanian delegation to the first ever Earth Summit, which was attended by 178 countries, said the conference came up with a declaration and an agenda, known as Agenda 21. The declaration and Agenda 21 were the subject of heated debate.

He said some participants refused to set a deadline for reaching the 7 per cent mark of the gross national product (GNP), as development aid. He pointed out that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) representatives at the conference made reservations on a provision calling for cutting back on the consumption of oil.

He noted that financing the activities emanating from the summit was a major problem.

The summit's secretariat estimated the cost at \$600 billion annually, including \$125 billion in overseas aid to the developing countries. The developing countries, which belong to group 77, stressed the need for setting up a fund to finance the activities envisaged in Agenda 21. However, due to differences between group 77 and the United States, Japan and Europe, participants agreed to enhance the roles of already existing funds and institutions, Dr. Tubeishat said. He added that the developing countries were asked to prepare their plans for sustainable development and present them to the United Nations General Assembly. The industrialised countries will then respond to these plans by making allocations to finance activities involved.

Dr. Tubeishat also said that an agreement was reached to reconstitute International Environmental Facility, which has been run by the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and financed through supplementary funds and other resources to cover costs of activities included in Agenda 21. The minister pointed out that Jordan has ensured an allocation of \$6.3 million from this facility to protect natural reserves.

On the protection of water supply, Dr. Tubeishat said Jordan had insisted on retaining the paragraphs relating to cross-border waters without undergoing any amendments. The transfer of appropriate and environmentally safe technology was a controversial issue at the summit as were the issues of energy.

Dr. Tubeishat said that a follow-up committee, attached to the Economic and Social Commission of the United Nations be established to follow up on the implementation of the activities contained in Agenda 21. The composition of the committee and its terms of reference will be the subject of debate during the forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly.

On the local scene, Dr. Tubeishat said a specialised Jordanian team will embark on discussing Agenda 21 in preparation for integrating their findings in the future development plans.

Dr. Tubeishat said Jordan had signed two agreements on climate changes and bio-diversity. Describing the Rio declaration and agenda, Dr. Tubeishat said the declaration aims to create a global partnership based on new and equitable bases, which encourage international cooperation for protecting the earth. Agenda 21 is a plan of action for achieving sustainable development, aimed to protect the earth from man-made disasters and destruction, he concluded.

Israelis kill 23 Palestinians in first three months of '92

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities killed 23 Palestinians, wounded 211 and arrested 1,400 others in the first three months of 1992, according to a report released by the Department of Palestinian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The report, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the special Israeli forces had staged 1,040 operations, killing 15 Palestinians and wounding 205 others from November 1991 to the end of March 1992.

The report added that from when Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip on June 5, 1967, to May this year, its occupation authorities have seized 3,067,899 dunums. The authorities also encouraged Israelis to live in the 204 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In May alone, the Israelis seized 300 dunums to build settlements in the same territory.

The report added that the authorities demolished 20 houses, in addition to walls and boundary walls, and killed 15 Palestinians during May. They also issued 16 warrants for arrest of Palestinians and brought 136 Palestinians before Israeli military courts. The Israeli authorities also imposed curfews on various cities and villages in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The worst curfew was imposed in May on the Gaza Strip which is still under curfew. As a result of the curfew Palestinians have lost jobs and income, adding the strip's economic crisis.

The report described the curfew as one form of collective punishment, saying it violates international humanitarian laws and Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Israeli authorities, have also banned Arab pharmacies from selling or displaying drugs manufactured by Arab pharmaceutical companies and warned that violators will be severely punished.

5 killed, 19 hurt in crash

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five people were killed and 19 others injured in a road accident on the Amman-Aqaba Highway at Qwira on Thursday night.

Reports said that a passenger bus heading for Aqaba hit a trailer parked along side the road.

An eight-year-old child was killed in the accident, according to reports in the local press Friday.

The reports said that police and rescue workers rushed to the accident and carried the dead and the injured to the Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba.

Police were still investigating Friday.

The Al Dustour daily said that among the dead were the wife and daughter of the bus driver and an Egyptian. Most of the passengers were Jordanian.

The condition of the driver was unknown.

Police are accusing the driver of negligence.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL 667171

CAREER VACANCIES

A leading Jordanian manufacturing company has career vacancies in its expanding organisation in the following fields of engineering:

1. Industrial
 2. Mechanical
 3. Production/planning and quality control
- Applicants should meet the following conditions:
1. Be Jordanian nationals, graduates of accredited universities preferably British or American.
 2. Be well-versed in spoken and written English.
 3. Have 3-5 years experience in the related fields.
 4. Own a car and have a valid driving licence.

A family background in business and personal motivation will be viewed as an additional asset. Interested applicants should address their resume (C.V.) backed up with all necessary documentation by registered mail to:

Recruiting Director
P.O. Box 35255
Amman-Jordan

Personal interviews will be arranged and conducted by mid July 1992 and thereafter.

P.S. To facilitate reviews posts applied for should be indicated in individual applications. All applications will be dealt with in strict confidence.

WHAT'S ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tawawi at the Phoenix Gallery for Experimental Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Patrick Palm at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammed Al Jalous at Bahadra Art Gallery — opening ceremony at 6 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Sumar Obaidat at the Royal Cultural Centre — opening ceremony at 5 p.m.

AL-SHARAF AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS

NEAR THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

BEARS
SNAKES

FRIDAY 21 3 PM

TICKETS SOLD AT THE CIRCUS

ENTRANCE FREE

PRICES: 2,3,5 JDS

PARKING SPACE AVAILABLE

JOB OPPORTUNITY

ONLY THE QUALIFIED NEED TO APPLY

POSITION: ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- B.A. DEGREE IN ADVERTISING OR MARKETING
- DYNAMIC PERSONALITY
- FLUENT IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH
- PRESENTABLE APPEARANCE
- OWN A CAR
- EXPERIENCE NOT A MUST

SALARY: DEPENDING ON YOUR SKILLS AND ABILITIES
SEND YOUR C.V. AND PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPH IN CONFIDENCE BEFORE JUNE 20, 1992

POSITION: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

QUALIFICATIONS:

- MINIMUM EXPERIENCE 5 YEARS
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH
- WELL VERSED IN ALL SECRETARIAL DUTIES
- CAN WORK ON P/C

SALARY: DEPENDING ON YOUR SKILLS AND ABILITIES
SEND YOUR C.V. AND PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPH IN CONFIDENCE BEFORE JUNE 20, 1992 TO:

THE MANAGER
P.O. BOX: 982140 AMMAN - JORDAN

Jordan Times

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الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Wrong verdict

THE U.S. Supreme Court decision last week condemning the apprehension of foreign nationals on foreign soil suspected of crimes and kidnapping them to continental U.S. for prosecution has understandably sent shock waves across the world. Never before has any nation pleaded the highly contentious and dubious legal argument that it may engage in extraterritorial criminal search and arrest and succeed till last Monday when the highest court in the U.S. rendered its controversial verdict and gave the green light to the U.S. authorities to prosecute a Mexican doctor abducted from his country and brought to justice for his complicity in the torture of a U.S. drug agent.

Understandably, many countries have reacted with anger and astonishment at the news of the U.S. decision because such matters have hitherto been left for extradition treaties concluded between states. However, instead of acting in panic, the international community may act in concert on this feature of the new world order and probably submit the issue to the International Law Commission (ILC) currently meeting in Geneva for urgent consideration.

The fact that the supreme court was split on the case makes it all the more necessary to adjudicate the matter before an international body as the ILC. In his dissenting opinion to the court's decision, U.S. Justice Paul Stevens said that he "suspected most courts throughout the civilized world will be deeply disturbed by the monstrous decision the court had announced." Even Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist who wrote the majority view of the court, admitted that the "kidnapping (of the Mexican doctor) may have been shocking and in violation of general international law principles." Yet Justice Rehnquist went on to add that it was up to the Bush administration and not the federal court systems to decide whether the Mexican doctor in question should be repatriated to his country. In other words, the majority view of the highest U.S. court was based on political rather than legal grounds, something that would not augur well to the prestige and reputation of the entire U.S. legal system.

Still the other side of the coin of this subject calls also for personal and prudential. What probably prompted the U.S. to take the international law into its own hands is the fact that few countries bother to prosecute its own agents and security personnel when they engage in torture against suspects. There are so many perpetrators of crimes against humanity at large in the world that it has become urgently necessary to establish an international mechanism and machinery to apprehend such criminals and put them on trial. As long as agents of states worldwide continue to believe that they may commit heinous crimes against their people or other peoples with impunity, then the international stage will be naturally set for extraordinary actions as the one that the U.S. Supreme Court seems to have condoned. There is already an international body called the "Committee on Torture" which is seized with the situation of torture in the world and is beginning to flex its muscles in the direction of elaborating effective measures to bring to justice all persons, official or otherwise, who have been involved in the act of perpetrating such crime. In the same vein all states that condone the presence of torture equipment in places of detention will automatically be found guilty of the crime of torture according to the new jurisprudence of this committee. Therefore instead of taking the law into its own hands, the U.S. and other like-minded countries should endeavour to support all existing international efforts to combat torture and expand on it with a view to making them that much more effective.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily dwelt on the situation in the occupied Arab territories, noting that the situation is deteriorating due to Israel's terrorist policies against the Arab population. The paper said that the U.N. secretary general is neglecting his duty of applying U.N. rules on Israel, forcing it to implement U.N. resolutions, while the United States is condoning Israel's actions and its continued occupation of Arab lands. In further support of Israel's terrorism against the Arabs, Washington is constantly talking about an improvement in U.S.-Israel relations and has recently called the Israeli prime minister to visit the United States for talks in further advance these relations, said the paper. The daily said that the United States was regarding the Arabs, who are the real victims of aggression, terrorists while condoning the terrorist activities of the Jewish state and backing its atrocities against the Arabs. For this reason, one has to emphasise the need for the Arabs to join forces and end Israel's terrorism and save themselves from continued atrocities if real peace is to be established, the paper said.

WITH THE release of the German hostages from Lebanese captivity, the black dossier about hostages in Lebanon has come to conclusion, said Al Dstour daily. Let us hope that the release of the German men would mark the end of the criminal act of holding people against their will in the Arab World because the abduction, which took place in the name of the Islamic jihad and Palestine, has no relation to Islam or Palestine, but has caused a great deal of damage to the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular, the paper said. Despite the big slogans under which the kidnapping of foreign men and women in Lebanon occurred, it was known to all that the real motives of the kidnappers were others and the abduction was meant to serve their own selfish interest, said the daily. In addition, the kidnapping could also have been aimed at blackmailing the abducted people's family into paying large sums of cash, the paper added. Of course, the Lebanese cause suffered during the time when the hostages were held by the various factions and to make things even worse for Lebanon, the orders for abduction or release came from abroad, the paper continued. Lebanon has paid a heavy price for this affair which also gave a wrong impression to the West about the Arabs and Muslims and the Islamic jihad, the paper added.

By Michael Ignatieff

"This is the first summit where there are no superpowers." — EC official at the Rio summit. "We're not the world's policeman." — George Bush, 11 June, 1992. "Where is the U.S. Sixth Fleet when you need it?" — A Sarajevo doctor, June 1992. If the United States had led at Rio, we might now have global treaties worth the paper they're written on. If the United States had moved a fleet into the Adriatic a year ago and warned the Serbs against military intervention in Croatia and Bosnia, there might be some sort of peace in the Balkans. If the United States had used the full measure of its influence over the Madrid process, there might be some kind of peace agreement in the Middle East.

Take any unsolved crisis in the world these days and it is possible to blame the impasse on failures of American leadership. The question is whether this is either fair or wise. Nostalgia for American leadership strikes me as one of those cold-war reflexes best left behind if Europeans are to learn how to survive on their own in the new world disorder.

It cannot be denied that the Americans' dismal obstruction at Rio seriously weakened the environmental summit. Yet there is more than a measure of hypocrisy in the fashionable anti-American-

ism at Rio. European car emission standards are lower than those in many American states, but that did not stop Europeans from virtuously blaming the Americans for Rio's relative failure. European nations give more environmental aid to the Third World than the Americans but not so much more that they are entitled to wag a reproachful finger at the Bush administration.

"The longing for American leadership is a form of suppressed nostalgia for the lost stabilities of the cold war era. Those were the days when we knew who was in charge."

The Europeans did sign the biodiversity treaty but again from motives that combined genuine commitment with an artful desire to embarrass the Americans and gain kudos in the Third World.

What Rio illustrates clearly is that the Americans cannot be counted on to take a lead in shaping the emerging global order. The basic reason for this, it is sometimes argued, is that the

Americans are overwhelmed by problems at home. Yet problems at home have never prevented the Americans from adventuring abroad. Vietnam, the high-water mark of American expansionism, coincided with the sixties riots in Watts, Newark and Detroit. As along as they bestrode the world, Americans never turned away from imperial adventures just because their cities were burning.

But they do not bestride the world any more. Having defeated the Soviet Union, the Americans now find themselves with two still more formidable adversaries. The Japanese and the Europeans wield power over trading blocs equal in size to their own. In a tri-polar world, the vital interests of Americans lie with the free-trade zone they are busy forming with the Canadians and the Mexicans. As long as the fire is not in their backyard, they have no interest in playing global fire-man.

The emerging geopolitical crisis of the 1990s will be how to contain the developing trade wars among the free blocs. Gatt is permanently stalled. American farm producers are determined to batter their way into European markets. The Europeans protest that they have gone as far towards dismantling the Common Agricultural Policy as political prudence allows. Yet the trade conflict shows no signs of abating. Soon the conflict may embrace the whole "buy European"

strategy of industrial and defence procurement within the EC. In the global trade wars of the 1990s, American leadership will be exercised in defence of its own interest.

During the cold war, by contrast, competition with the Soviet Union gave the Americans a global set of interests. The mere fact that the Russians had clients in the Middle East gave the Americans reason to maintain client states of their own. Now that the Russians are gone and American oil supplies are guaranteed by the Saudis, Americans have few objective reasons for persevering with the thankless peace process. They may even have few objective reasons to persevere in support of Israel. The Gulf war, far from heralding a new era of American interventionism, may herald a new period of American isolation not just in the Middle East but in other regions as well.

Thus, when the Americans are reproached for looking on while Yugoslavia burns, they can reply: what interest do we have in risking American lives to stop the south Slavs from killing each other? If the Europeans cannot sort them out, why should we?

What can we say in reply? Each European state has preached common action and each has gone its own way, the Germans siding with the Croats, the French with the Serbs, the Greeks with

the Macedonians and so on. This suggests another reason why Europe continues to pine for American global leadership. We seem incapable of it ourselves.

The longing for American leadership is a form of suppressed nostalgia for the lost stabilities of the cold war era. Those were the days when we knew who was in charge. There were two pillars holding up the sky: half of the world sheltered under one and

"Europeans will have to learn that if they want something done in this world they will not be able to count on the Americans to do it."

half under the other. From Western Europe's point of view, the cold war worked marvellously well. We didn't pay the full cost of our own defence and we didn't have our Eastern neighbours to worry about. They were safely locked up behind communist bars. Nostalgia for stability should not blind us to the horrendous price that we paid for it. In any event, it is gone never to return.

The Americans are acutely, even phobically aware of the past role of overstretch and under-competitive empires, and they rightly judge that there is nothing to be gained and much to be lost by playing the role of global policeman. In the emerging patchwork of nation states in post-Communist Europe and Asia, there are simply too many local gang wars for one policeman to cope with.

Europe has been slow to grasp the homeward reorientation of American power. Indeed, the most astonishing absence in the debate about Maastricht is the question of America. The debate has been carried on in a geopolitical vacuum as if neither the emerging Japanese trading bloc nor the U.S.-Canada-Mexico free-trade area existed. Europeans will have to learn that if they want something done in this world they will not be able to count on the Americans to do it. Increasingly, the Americans look on Europeans as competitors rather than allies. Those who suppose, after the Danish referendum result, that the momentum towards further European integration has been stopped for good should take a look outside Europe. In a world without leadership, divided into three trading blocs increasingly at war in the struggle for market share, further political integration in Europe is not an optional extra. It is a necessity — Observer.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Journalists on the eve of elections; great expectations attached to new press and publication law

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE local press in the past week gave prominence to a host of domestic issues, the peace process and the Islamic countries' discussions on the situation of the Muslim community in Yugoslavia.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily, referred to a lecture by a prominent American politician about the Middle East peace process, noting that the lecturer had tried to find excuses for Washington to pull out from the process.

In his lecture in Amman, the U.S. official found excuses for the U.S. administration to reduce its role in the process so that it would not be blamed for any failures, said Fahd Al Fanek.

Of course, this official is trying to say that the U.S. is avoiding pressure on Israel, but the U.S. is still committed to uphold the international legitimacy, said Dr. Fanek. He said that the lecturer did not convince anybody with his argument or with his justification of Washington's policies with regard to its continued assistance to the Jewish state.

Dwelling on the topic of peace negotiations, another columnist in Al Ra'i said that by sitting at the negotiating table face to face with Israel, the Arabs have called the Jewish state's bluff.

Indeed, Israel has always been claiming that the Arabs do not want peace and they refuse to sit for negotiations, but now after they sat, Israel refuses to budge from its adamant position and refuses to withdraw from the Arab lands, said Husni Ayyesh.

He said that it was good for the Arab parties to the negotiations to meet and coordinate their positions so that the Israelis can be confronted with a united stand in the coming round.

In addition to coordination among the four Arab states confronting Israel, said Sawt Al Shaab daily, the Arab parties have also decided to take the matter of Israel's aggression on Lebanon to the Arab League.

It said that such a step is part of the ongoing Arab efforts to rally support for their drive to end Israel's occupation of Arab lands.

For Taher Al Udwan, the four ministers' delay of their attendance of the peace talks with Israel until after the Israeli elections is pointless.

The columnist, who writes for Al Dstour, said that the Arabs should realise that the Israeli elections would bring nothing positive for them and that they should have waited for the U.S. presidential elections because it is Washington which holds the key to a solution and Washington alone can

force Israel to comply with the requirements of genuine peace.

Turning his attention to current propaganda campaigns against Jordan, Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the regimes in the Gulf states have sold themselves to the foreign colonial powers and aligned themselves with the enemies of the Arab nation, therefore, it is not surprising to hear their media attacking Jordan.

These regimes, the writer said, are trying to take revenge on Jordan for its stand in the face of the colonial powers' onslaught on the Arab World.

His voice was echoed by Hamedeh Faraneh, in Al Dstour daily, who said that Jordan's adherence to and call for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis was not to the taste of Arabs Gulf regimes which aligned themselves behind the Americans and their allies.

The writer said that as long as Jordan is holding on to its position and honest stand, the campaign is bound to continue on the part of those who are blind to the facts on the ground.

Al Ra'i daily criticised the Libyan media for launching propaganda campaigns against the Arab countries. The Libyans have abandoned the Palestinians, the Iraqis and the Lebanese and indeed helped the Iranians against the Iraqis in the eight-year war, and therefore, can expect no one to come to their help, said the daily.

But Saleh Al Qallah, a columnist in Al Dstour, said that all Arabs should stand by Libya in its confrontation with the West regardless of Tripoli's policies and past stands.

The writer said that no one condones the Libyan press's attack on the Arab Nation, but everyone should side by Libya because it is an Arab country facing the onslaught of the aggressive powers.

Referring to the Islamic Nation's meeting in Istanbul, which called for immediate help to the Muslim community, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that by such a decision the Muslim nations are contradicting their previous decisions at Dakar when they denounced Jihad against the colonial powers trying to loot Arab and Islamic countries wealth and oppress their population.

The paper said that while these Muslim nations brag about the fate of the Muslims of Yugoslavia, they forget about the fate of the Palestinian and Iraqi Muslims facing daily atrocities.

Al Ra'i's views were echoed by Sawt Al Shaab and Al Dstour, which said one can only feel astonished at the Muslim

Nation's sudden interest in the Muslims of Yugoslavia while it witnesses continued atrocities being committed against Muslims in Palestine and Iraq.

Dr. Samir Qatani, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, warned that the conspiracies against Iraq pave the way for others, against other Arab states, even those which chose to back the U.S.-led alliance against Baghdad.

Dr. Qatani saw in Israel's aggression against Lebanon the beginning of a new war against Syria and other countries directly confronting Israel, including Jordan. The writer said that the Arabs should end the embargo and support Iraq before it is too late.

A columnist in Al Ra'i launched a scathing attack on the United States for allocating additional funds to topple Saddam Hussein. Khaleel Mahadin said that while Washington is allocating a great deal of money to topple a president so that another regime can be installed to serve its interests, it is giving a mere \$25 million to help clean the earth from pollution, as declared at the Earth Summit.

The United States was also attacked by another columnist in Al Ra'i for burning and raiding the Iraqi farmlands in a bid to further starve the Iraqi people.

Bader Abdul Haq asks whether Iraq's crops constitute a danger to world peace and therefore should be annihilated. He said that American and allied planes have been burning the Iraqi crops like they did to the Vietnamese who dealt with the Americans a shameful defeat.

Mohammad Mideh, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, bitterly criticised the Islamist extremists who assassinated a liberal Egyptian journalist, Dr. Faraj Fodeh's writings reflected his liberal ideas and were not directed against any one, but he was not supporting the idea of Egypt becoming a religious state, said the writer.

He said that such ideas can be by no means justify killing a prominent intellectual.

Referring to the press in Jordan, Ahmad Al Mishleh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that on July 3 the Jordanian journalists will elect a new president for their association. He said that there was dire need for the coming president to help the association assume a prominent position among the various Jordanian associations under the present democracy in the Kingdom.

Taher Al Udwan wrote an article in Al Dstour saying that the association's bylaws require immediate amendments so that the association

can forge ahead with a greater force and serve the journalists and the Jordanian society as a whole.

The writer said that together with the association bylaws, the journalists have their eyes on the new draft law on press and publications which is expected to help stimulate the role of the media.

Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab said that the past Eid Al Adha new Jordanians divided into two factions: the rich and the poor.

Upon visiting the rural regions and the villages one would easily notice that the farmers and their families live a poor life compared to the families of the cities, especially Amman, said the writer.

He said that under a democratic rule one should at least find the concerned authorities giving priority to dealing with the high cost of living and unemployment which is felt more in the rural regions.

Dwelling on the same topic, Bader Abdul Haq said in Al Ra'i that during Eid Al Adha and other feasts Jordanians spend at least JD2 million. He said that this money is spent on clothes, food and recreation, on buying sheep to be slaughtered and perhaps on other unnecessary things. He said that the cost of spending during the Eid can finance the construction of a hospital in a poor district.

A columnist in Al Dstour claimed that more and more youths are turning their attention towards joining the Islamic movement in Jordan as was clear in the recent students' elections.

Blal Hassan Al Tell said that the concerned Islamic organisations should, therefore, utilise the new spirit among the youth and organise their service towards the community.

The writer said Muslim youth can be led to become more creative and excel in the fields of science and arts and can be helped to enhance the bridges of understanding in a Muslim community.

Azmi Al Khawaja, a writer in Al Dstour, referred to the recent municipal elections in Irbid and blamed the failure of the Islamic movement to win more than one seat in the municipal council on the movement's failure to perform well.

Beside this, the national movement has succeeded in uniting its forces and presenting a programme acceptable to the voters and the people of Irbid, Khawaja said.

He said that since the elections were held in a democratic and free manner, one can only conclude that the outcome was one hundred per cent correct and reflected the view of the Irbid people.

LETTERS

Important matters overlooked

To the Editor:

I refer to the coverage of the opening session of the Jordanian conference on civil engineering by your reporter on the June 3, 1992.

I was extremely surprised, while reading that report a few days later, to see how it overlooked, whether intentionally or not, some important facts. For your information, I spoke in English and at length in that session. I thanked members of the conference Organising Committee who worked diligently with me, for almost one year, to make this a reality. I also welcomed all participants and sponsors and stated the conference's objectives. Yet, your reporter ignored all this and produced an unfair report that made no mention of those who actually organised the conference. I can assure you that many friends and participants alike criticised this unfortunate blunder by your reporter.

Finally, as a regular reader of your newspaper, I hope you will publish this as a letter to the editor to rectify some of the above and provide interested readers with the aforementioned details. At least, those who organised the whole event deserve to be mentioned and not walked over as nobodies.

Dr. Majed A. Dabbas,
General Secretary,
Conference on Civil Engineering,
University of Jordan,
Amman.

Editor's note: The Jordan Times did in fact publish a lengthy article on the conference, written by Dr. Dabbas himself. That article appeared on June 9, 1992.

United we could win

To the Editor:

Like most Arabs and Muslims I am rather depressed with the state of affairs in the Islamic World. We have never been so badly exploited and divided in our resplendent history. No Islamic country has any say in any major world forum. We are not allowed to have missiles or nuclear weapons.

This is a well-planned strategy of the Jewish people to suppress the Islamic World and control the world economy. In fact so strong is the control of the Jewish financiers in the West that they virtually control the United States' foreign policy! No Muslim state is allowed to bear Israel militarily. When Egypt was winning the war against Israel in 1973 the U.S. and her allies supplied weapons and intelligence to Israel allowing her to survive the war. Even the United Nations has become virtually an organisation in which Israel and the world Jewish organisations have substantial control.

In the seventies, some countries in the Islamic World could look to the Soviet Union or China for support. With the change in the global scene we in no case can anticipate this kind of support any more. In fact, an economically and militarily backward China (she was mauled badly in 1979 by Vietnam) is totally dependent on the U.S. Jewish organisations for commercial support and also on Israel for the purchase of some old U.S. weapons.

Israel uses China very cleverly to keep the Islamic World divided by the sale of Israeli weapons to opposing Islamic countries. Stories are then spread saying that these countries are buying weapons from Israel, so as to further demoralise and divide the Islamic World. In fact the recent nuclear test performed by China was a joint Israel-China venture. There are further reports that to enhance the image of a backward China the Jewish lobby in the U.S. is lobbying to obtain American technology for China so that she may put a man in space.

Thus, in this rapidly changing world, the only way for us (Muslims) to survive is to stop infighting and pool our resources together so as to counter any moves by the Zionists to destroy us.

Mustapha Ibrahim,
516 Central Avenue,
Charlotte, NC 28204,
U.S.A.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Palestinians denounce Israel

(Continued from page 1)

decision, Shamir would be giving a detrimental blow to the peace process.

The Israeli threat, he said, "contradicts the letter of assurances (issued by the U.S. prior to the launching of the peace talks) which does not impose any restrictions on the peace negotiators on consulting or contacting the Palestinian leadership."

"This is a new form of Israeli blackmail along the lines of (Israel's) arbitrary measures in the occupied territories and its aggression against South Lebanon," Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters.

Regardless of the Israeli threat, he added, "there will be no change in the PLO's policies and approach."

"Through our meetings in Amman yesterday and today, we want to send a message of peace to the Israelis before their elections (on Tuesday) with the hope that they would reciprocate with a sincere wish and support for the peace process," he said. "This message has the support of the Palestinian leadership as well as the negotiating team."

Thursday's Amman meeting provided a contrast to the policy of the opposition Labour Party, which ridiculed Mr. Shamir's claims and said it would talk to anyone who represents the 1.75 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin, locked in a tight election battle, has promised to reach agreement on autonomy — limited self-rule — with the Palestinians in the occupied territories within six months of taking office.

"Despite the Likud declarations and despite the fact it is sticking its head in the sand, this government has ongoing direct negotiations with the PLO," Labour said in a statement.

"If Labour heads the government it will negotiate with a delegation composed of Palestinian representatives from the occupied territories," it said. "This delegation that met Arafat represents the residents of the territories."

Key Palestinian negotiators, including Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein, have reportedly met with Mr. Arafat and other PLO officials a number of times in several Middle East capitals before and after the start of the peace talks.

Some of the negotiators have been questioned by Israeli authorities for alleged contacts with the PLO, but no charges were ever filed because of the lack of proof.

Mr. Hussein and Saeb Erekat, a delegation member, were seen two weeks ago by reporters entering the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman when Mr. Arafat was there recovering from brain surgery to remove blood clots. But there was never confirmation that they actually met with Mr. Arafat.

On arrival in Amman Thursday, Dr. Erekat said the Palestinians had come to Amman to "prepare for upcoming rounds of talks (with Israel)... and review issues raised during previous rounds."

He also criticized the Jewish state's detention of two fellow Palestinians and said the move was aimed at destroying the peace process.

"The aim of the Israeli government is very clear. It aims to blow up the Middle East peace process," he said.

An Israeli army communiqué on Tuesday said that Walid Awad Zakut and Fares Ahmad Hosna, both from the occupied Gaza Strip, were placed under "administrative detention."

The army said that it held both men under emergency regulations allowing the detention of those deemed a security risk for up to a year without trial. The army did not say why it considered both men "security" risks.

The stated objective of the Amman meetings was to assess the peace process and chart strategy for dealing with the outcome of Israel's elections.

They are also discussing a proposal to hold legislative elections in the occupied territories by October as part of interim self-rule arrangements.

Mr. Shamir has rejected the election idea. He is willing to offer Palestinians autonomy over local government and social and economic affairs but not control of legislation and key natural resources, including water.

His Majesty King Hussein is planning to chair a coordination meeting of the Jordanian-Palestinian peace delegation on Saturday. It is not yet clear whether Mr. Arafat will attend.

PLO throws down the gauntlet

(Continued from page 1)

usually to include the organisation in the process.

The organisation is hoping that by playing up its role publicly it will gradually force all parties involved to deal with it directly.

The letter of assurances issued by the U.S. to the Palestinians prior to the Madrid peace conference last October implied that the co-sponsors would not object to a broader Palestinian participation at a later stage. Some PLO officials even talk about hints or informal suggestions by the U.S. that the PLO would come in at a more advanced stage.

But no clear promise or commitment has been given by American officials to full pledged PLO participation in any phase of the peace talks, according to information available to the Jordan Times.

Furthermore, what could be more relevant to the U.S. and Israel is not a public appearance of Mr. Arafat with the delegation — which indeed is an important step — but that the Palestinians had already accepted the rules of the game, particularly the terms of their participation, and it is too late to change them.

No doubt the PLO on Thursday stretched the limits of the rules of the game, but it remains to be seen how far the PLO is willing to go to assert its role and the national rights of the Palestinian people. The PLO has tested the grounds but the implications of its public challenge are not clear yet.

If Israel does not withdraw from the peace process, which seems more likely, then the leadership can expect to come under pressure from the opponents of the peace talks to take further steps beyond the media blitz. But whether Israel takes a drastic step or not, pressure will mount on the PLO to hold on to its position.

Some analysts believe that the co-sponsors, mainly the U.S., will try to treat Thursday's meeting in Amman "as an isolated incident" and pressure the delegation not to pursue such tactics in the future. Some Palestinians argue that the publicity was intended mainly to quell growing Palestinian resentment of the exclusion of the PLO and the course that the peace process has taken.

Regardless of the calculations that the PLO leadership considered when it decided to publicise the joint meeting, the next step is how to redraw a strategy that will improve the terms of Palestinian participation and even the peace process itself — a task that awaits the PLO leadership and the Palestinian delegation that are currently meeting in Amman.

A reassessment of the negotiating strategy cannot be effective, according to Jordanian and Palestinian analysts, unless the opposition groups take an effective part in the real decision-making (that has so far been confined to a small circle in the upper hierarchy) and improve coordination with the Jordanian delegation.

Expo experiment proves temperatures can be controlled

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

SEVILLE — Environmentalists are predicting a four degrees Centigrade rise in temperature throughout the world because of the depletion of the ozone layer and man's irresponsibility. While specialists in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, were trying to work out ways in which to slow down or curb global warming, the 1992 Seville Universal Exposition has developed techniques for combating the rigors of summer.

Some 50,000 of the 300,000 square metres, the total area of the Expo site, is used as a natural shade and watered avenues enable the visitors to bear the high temperatures, particularly during the summer months of July and August.

The Spanish city of Seville has an average temperature of 35 degrees centigrade, but temperatures can reach 40-45 degrees centigrade. The high temperatures are reduced by five degrees by what Expo officials describe as climate control.

In streets, squares and buildings throughout the Expo site

and Seville itself, canopies, shades, fountains, pools and plants have been integrated into the architecture and urban designs. As a matter of fact, Expo officials stated that throughout centuries the Mediterranean culture developed several techniques to alleviate the swelter of summer.

"The climate control experiments carried out by Expo 92, in collaboration with the Department of Energy Engineering and Fluid Mechanics at the University of Seville, are based on these same resources which our predecessors used from mere intuition," said an Expo official.

The cooling system is designed to expel hot air into the atmosphere based on the use of water and a profusion of plant life, said Juan Correas, Spain's deputy commissioner general at the Expo.

One of the ways in which to make the visitor's stay more attractive, the experiments concluded, was to have plant coverings, i.e. metal structures (measuring six by six metres or 12 by six metres) covered with plants at different levels. "The

plants provide shade, absorb solar energy by photosynthesis and liberate water vapour with the consequent increase in humidity," Mr. Correas said.

About 50,000 square metres of surface area have these plant covered metal structures on top.

At times, when the temperatures are on the high side, little sprays begin working from these plant coverings. Most people at the Expo know this and suddenly one finds that people are walking towards the shady area so that they will be able to cool down by the moist sensation. "It is not that you get wet. You do not get wet, but you feel like a cool breeze just hits you," commented one sweating visitor.

"The good thing about these coverings is that they allow for open air activities," the visitor added. The Palenque for example, an area where concerts take place and where countries celebrate the inauguration of their national day, is protected by a synthetic covering.

"The Palenque has a textile structure covering 9,000 square metres, formed by 100 cone-shaped elements. It works by

controlled irrigation which cools the air currents," according to an Expo official.

Most importantly, however, for the climate control is water. Pools, watersheds, sprays and micromisers, fountains and cascades all contribute to ease the temperature.

Not only is it a pretty site, but the 400-metre-long watersheds with a fall of six metres, situated on Fifth Avenue, is regarded with importance because of its size, said an Expo official. "Above all, it creates a psychological sensation of coolness to the visitors," he added.

In the Avenue of Europe, the 12 towers are not just decoration, but an essential element to climate control. The Expo official said: "These towers, covered in synthetic sheath, capture breezes because of a set of deflectors which project the air through the cones. Fourteen copper rings with water micromisers cool the airstream which is then dissipated along the Avenue of Europe." The 12 towers produce 18 million frigories per hour, he stated.

Contrary to traditional cool-

ing systems which base their effectiveness on the suppression of air currents, this technique makes the most of them (air currents) and even creates them to avoid the heating which the absence of shade may provoke. The official explained: "This is what happens with the synthetic coverings. The designs form air passages which cause a continual flow of air."

"Warm air in contact with water provokes instantaneous evaporation and lowers temperature. This cooling increases if the size of the droplets (micronised water) is reduced, thus facilitating evaporation and heat absorption," he added.

On the Third Avenue, there is a large 22-metre-diameter sphere formed by a triangular metal full of micromisers. It is covered by a perforated metal sheet and is raised on three columns to a height of six metres. The sphere is divided into 14 sectors which are totally or partially activated by a computer-controlled system depending on the speed of wind, air-temperature and humidity, the Expo official

said. "The eastern breezes collide with this large structure, which cools them with the network of micromisers. It creates a cloud-like effect capable of producing almost six million frigories an hour. The cooling effects are felt along the whole length of the avenue," he added.

"The temperatures certainly are reduced," said Mr. Correas, "and our visitors have felt the difference."

The green zones which cover a total surface area of 500,000 square metres, are important not only because of their ornamental value, but also because they are essential elements in the bioclimatic climate control, he said.

Since the Expo 92 landscape gardening plan took effect in 1985, the site, which was barren and desolate, has undergone a remarkable change, officials say. Now there are some 25,000 trees and 300,000 shrubs, bushes and bedges.

All the climate control systems were tested in a full size model serving as a laboratory before they were installed in areas throughout the Expo site.

Hawatmeh calls for fresh look

(Continued from page 1)

arrived in Amman late last week, insisted that with Palestinian participation in decision-making through democratic means was necessary to strengthen the Palestinian position in the peace process and "to put the train of negotiations on the right track of international resolutions."

Mr. Hawatmeh warned that so long as the negotiations do not follow the track of international law, the anger of the Palestinian people would "explode" when they discover that the current track is leading to a dead end.

"The anger among the people is increasing around the train of the negotiations, and the only solution is retracking it towards international legality. Without this, the road is a dead end, there will be anger and lost peace," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

The Palestinian leader is in Amman visiting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is recuperating after a brain surgery. The DFLP leader will also meet with Jordanian and other Palestinian officials.

In his interview with the Jordan Times, he insisted that great efforts must be made to end the Palestinian-Palestinian violence and killings inside the occupied territories.

"We must be courageous and critical about the situation in the occupied territories," Mr. Hawatmeh said. "We all know the depth of the pain there with its political divisions, the killings and blind assassinations... and its reflection on the intifada." Efforts must be made to improve the Palestinian-Palestinian relationship in order to strengthen the positive aspects of the uprising and to eliminate its negative dimensions, especially "the arbitrary killings."

He referred to popular meetings that were held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where there was agreement on the need to stop the internal violence and solve problems through democratic means.

"There is a need," Mr. Hawatmeh said, "to include all the political powers under the banner of the Unified Command of the Intifada, including Hamas and the Islamic trends."

He also stressed that the relationship between the PLO leadership and the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation must be improved in the coming months, and urged an end to what he described as the "bureaucratic language and the export of bureaucratic orders," Mr. Hawatmeh was obviously referring to orders made to the Palesti-

nian leaders inside the occupied territories from Tunis.

The DFLP leader also criticised the PLO's policy in channelling its funds to the occupied territories, accusing the organisation of wasting millions of dollars on a "lazy and bureaucratic apparatus that has no function except creating small conspiracies while tens of thousands in the Gaza Strip are suffering from unemployment and hunger."

In his final analysis of the current PLO situation, particularly after Mr. Arafat's survival from a plane crash in Libya in April, Mr. Hawatmeh emphasised the need to form a collective leadership where all political trends participate in the policy-making "as stipulated in the PLO's 1968 programme" instead of allowing "the bureaucratic and conservative wings in the PLO to take unilateral decisions."

"It was clear even before Mr. Arafat's plane crash that for our national cause, to triumph, it needs the participation of all trends based on pluralism and democracy, and this cannot be done under the pressure of the bureaucratic wing of the PLO," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

Mr. Hawatmeh also proposed that until the new Israeli government is formed — "perhaps the peace talks could be delayed until the U.S. elections in November" — the present and future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship should be determined clearly once and for all without

the "media storms created to distract the people." He was referring to individual Palestinian statements made since last October over forming a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

"It is necessary to delve into the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and discuss it seriously in its present and future form," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

He added that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship could go further than a confederation, but that this relationship, whatever form it takes, should be "laid on the ground."

"The important thing is that now is the time to determine and ensure that the future legal and constitutional relationship is built on a clear basis," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

He added that the Arab parties to the peace talks should also take advantage of the coming months to "transform Arab coordination into practical terms." The Palestinian leader said that differences were increasing between the Arab parties, and referred to the last round of multilateral talks which were boycotted by some parties.

"Because the negotiating table is now in effect frozen pending the new Israeli and American governments," Mr. Hawatmeh said, "these steps must be made to strengthen the Palestinian situation and the relationship between the four Arab participants during this lost time... that we do not distract ourselves with various imaginary projects."

Sudan rebels heal split for self-determination

NAIROBI (R) — Two factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said on Friday they were about to rejoin forces to fight Khartoum's Islamic dominated government.

The SPLA, the southern-based group of Christian and animist blacks, also said it would now battle for self-determination rather than seek a better deal in a unitary Sudan.

"Now there is no basis for unity," Elijah Malok, head of the SPLA's humanitarian wing, told reporters in Nairobi.

The SPLA split last August after several officers called for the removal of guerrilla chief John Garang, accused of human rights abuses and dictatorship in the movement he led to the bush at the start of the civil war in 1983.

"There are still some points that need to be resolved: The restructuring of the movement, the leadership and human rights," said the splinter group's Lam Akol. The two parties could be united after talks in Nairobi within a month, he added.

The factions agreed on the goal of self-determination during peace talks with the government earlier this month in Nigeria's capital of Abuja.

This followed the refusal of the

government delegation to yield to the key rebel demand that Islam's constitutional status as a state religion be abolished.

Until now Colonel Garang has been less keen on separatism, calling instead for a secular constitution for the whole of Sudan to end what southerners see as domination of the Arabised north.

The splinter group, based in Nassir close to the Ethiopian border and led by Riak Machar, has always favoured secession. "Self-determination is popular in the movement whether John Garang likes it or not," said Mr. Malok. He denied this was a coup against the SPLA chief, whose whereabouts in Sudan are unknown.

"Islam is like a house we cannot enter. We must go away and build a new one," said Garang's deputy William Nyuon Bany.

Mr. Lam said the SPLA would press for a referendum for the south at further peace talks with the Khartoum government in Abuja, but no date has been set for these.

He called on Khartoum-based opposition parties to take up arms against the Islamic fundamentalist government of military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

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German fans go on rampage in Gothenburg

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Marauding German soccer hooligans roamed the streets of Gothenburg until early Friday, smashing windows, picking fights and dodging police patrols.

Gothenburg police spokeswoman Lucia Wikmark said about 100 to 150 German rowdies, ostensibly in town for their team's European Championship match against the Netherlands, eventually congregated near the main station at about 2.30 a.m. (0030 GMT) and accepted a police offer of buses to a campsite.

Police detained 19 troublemakers, most of them Germans, during Thursday and early Friday but some had since been released, Ms. Wikmark said.

Although there were 15,000 Dutch fans in town, none was arrested.

"They behaved very well, there was no trouble at all (from the Dutch)," she said.

Ms. Wikmark said 10 fans and

two police officers had been injured, none seriously, in the disturbances in which German thugs rampaged through the centre of Sweden's second city before and after the Netherlands' 3-1 win.

The Germans smashed shop windows, overturned a food and drink stall and charged bars and restaurants where orange-clad Dutch fans were celebrating with Swedes. Some fired flares and others hurled bottles and stones.

Christer Pettersson of the organising committee in Gothenburg said he was saddened by the violence.

"It is totally bad for football. The organising committee had hoped that this sort of thing would not happen."

Germany now play Sweden Sunday in Stockholm, scene of clashes between English and Swedish hooligans Wednesday. The Dutch meet Denmark in the other semifinal in Gothenburg Monday.

Until Thursday's unrest in Gothenburg, almost all the trouble related to the eight-team tournament had been sparked by English rowdies.

"Now we are waiting for the Germans," Stockholm Police spokeswoman Lil Freuden said.

She said 1,600 police would be mobilised for Sunday's semifinal, only 200 fewer than the number deployed for the Sweden-England match.

Four English fans were remanded in custody by a Stockholm court Thursday on riot-related charges and a further five were due to appear Friday, Ms. Freuden said.

She said five English fans would also be deported Friday.

If World Cup winners Germany and reigning European Champions the Netherlands win their semifinals they will meet again in Gothenburg in the final on June 26.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 20, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is the longest day in the year and the Summer Solstice as the Sun enters Cancer (Moonchild) and is extremely well aspected with a triple trine of the Sun, Pluto and Venus.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) It is advisable that you use considerable tact and diplomacy at your residence so that you will sidestep a pending argument there but tonight enjoy recreations.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You certainly have some need to maintain control over what ever movements you make or in transportation matters as danger lurks around the corner.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A disagreement over a financial matter could cause considerable strife with a usually congenial companion but tonight all becomes harmonious.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) It is essential that you maintain harmony between yourself and members of your own clan today despite some rather serious differences of opinion.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A private anxiety can make you lash out at a regular associate and it could cause an estrangement between you which would be a travesty on your friendship.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out to go on your own instead of with a friend

and an outsider who are at loggerheads and between whom a fight could at any moment occur.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Not the day to get caught up in any sort of a confrontation in public or where some worldly activity is concerned, tonight make a new ally.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about your various options where quite romance is best after a day when an argument over a distant matter with a friend has subsided.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A financial matter is not worth the dispute that would ensue if a point is made of it since tempers could be aroused to no good purpose.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) In a disagreement between an official or executive and an associate steer very clear or instead of being peacemaker you take the brunt of the trouble.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) One from a distance and a fellow associate can be seeing a condition from very different standpoints and get in a nasty argument so maintain your distance.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There is apt to exist some jealousy that can come surfacing between your attachment and one who comes between the two of you but tonight home is the best place to be.

English, French press are in rage as teams bow out

PARIS (AP) — The French and the English don't always see eye-to-eye. But they agreed on one thing Thursday: Their national soccer teams were dismal failures in Sweden.

The two teams, expected to go far in the European Soccer Championships, were knocked out of the competition Wednesday.

England lost 2-1 to Sweden to finish last in Group 1, just behind France which lost 2-1 to Denmark.

Thursday's newspapers were not kind to the losers.

French papers agreed that France, which won all eight of its preliminary round matches but failed to win one in Sweden, had lacked the potent power that had characterised its play the previous two years.

"The French tumble from high" said the French sports daily L'Equipe. "The blues hit bottom" blared Liberation.

Some of the French regional papers were even harsher.

"France eliminated without glory" wrote the Dernieres Nouvelles D'Alsace. "France: A bad Danish fairy tale" said L'Est Republicain.

In Denmark, the press was euphoric but also played up the team's role as underdogs. "Oops, we continue" said the Politiken. "Danish dynamic exploded... with such a blast the Eiffel Tower and the Arch De Triomphe are still reeling," wrote the tabloid B.T.

French manager Michel Platini is expected to take the heat for failing to open up the offense.

"Each thing in its own time. Michel needs to analyse the situation as I will do too," French Soccer Federation President Jean Fournet-Fayard was quoted as saying in L'Equipe.

England's tabloid papers were much blunter in their criticism of the team and manager Graham Taylor.

"England charged like headless chickens out of the European Championships," said The Sun.

Taylor was pilloried for removing captain and the national team's all-time leading scorer Gary Lineker in his last game for England. Most papers carried photos of Lineker throwing his black captain's armband away as he left the field.

"No way to treat a hero," the Daily Mail said in a two-page headline.

"His public rejection of Lineker said more about himself than it does about the much-loved figure behind whom he attempted to disguise his own failure," wrote columnist Jeff Powell. "What he did to Lineker leaves a taste in the mouth more bitter by far than that by Sweden and it will take time and wise counsel to revive our appetite for his England team," wrote columnist Jeff Powell.

The Daily Mirror carried a full-page headline "who do you blame Taylor?" with a photo of the manager turned upside down.

"England manager Graham Taylor has finally run out of excuses," the paper said. "The time has come to take the blame for our European Championship exit."

The Daily Express said simply "stinker Taylor" and "Taylor's misfits shuffled out."

The Daily Star called for Taylor to be dismissed before the 1994 World Cup.

"Graham Taylor is a failure as England manager," reporter Bob Driscoll wrote. "And we — the fans — have a right to demand he quit now."

Russia draws 3 games with Armenia, keeps chess lead

MANILA (AP) — A cautious Russian team drew three games and adjourned another against Armenia but kept the lead in the 10th round of the 30th Chess Olympiad.

The draws gave Russia 29.5 points, four ahead of the second-place United States, which beat Hungary 2.5-1.5.

Russian world champion Garry Kasparov drew with Rafael Vaganian, countryman Alexander Khalifman drew with Vladimir Akopian and Alexei Vyzmanavin drew with Aetashes Minasian. Russia's Alexei Dreev adjourned his game against Smlat Lputian of Armenia.

Soviet emigre Gata Kamsky of the United States beat Hungarian grandmaster Lajos Portich but his teammates drew in three other games.

Tied for third with 25 points were Lithuania, Iceland, Uzbekistan and Armenia. Hungary, Ukraine and Bosnia-Herzegovina were tied for seventh with 24.5 points.

The Netherlands, Latvia and Colombia were another half-point behind.

In women's competition, China took the lead by beating Bulgaria 3-0.

That gave China 22 points, half a point ahead of Ukraine and Georgia.

Women's world champion Xie Jun defeated Bulgaria's Margarita Voiska, teammate Peng Zhaoqin beat Maya Koen and Qin Kanying completed the rout by beating Pavlina Chilingirova.

Georgia won 2-1 against Kazakhstan while Ukraine drew its three games against Azerbaijan.

Romania took fourth place with 19.5 points by blanking Mongolia.

Tied for fifth at 18.5 points were Azerbaijan and Latvia.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 5-25



"Kiss me and forget what your mother told you! Your face will not freeze that way!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: CHESS NOISE GYRATE FABLED

Answer: A hangover can fill a head that was empty THE NIGHT BEFORE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Benshoof

ACROSS

1 Signaling sound

5 Suffragette Carrie

9 Unit of power

13 Theophrastus

15 Century plant

18 Near the deck, usually

17 Alan Ladd movie

18 Rich cake

19 Kind of dancer

20 In legend

22 Discharge

23 A Gardner

24 Out of French

26 Gracious

30 News bit

31 At another time

32 Sign light

35 Gold or silver

38 Bridge of — Venice

41 — true what

42 Gr. philosopher

43 Bend

44 Membership

45 Aware of

47 Story

49 Emotional

51 Book of instructions

53 Appearance

55 Author Jaffe

56 Out of French

58 — true what

62 — true what

63 Book of instructions

65 Single time

66 der-river

67 Argument

68 Wedding cake

69 Put trust in

70 Penuse

71 Party

72 Verberate

73 And others

74 Duck's milk

75 Conspiracy

76 Winged

77 Future

78 Literature

79 Fruit of the vine

80 Tex. mission

81 Poisonous

82 Suburban

83 12 kil

84 Certain button

85 Small bird

86 Secretary of

87 27-step — (hurry)

88 Identifying statement

89 Having great trouble

90 Paravian

91 Alouatta

92 Mine output

93 Sharp flavor

94 The Chicago abbr.

95 Quorum

96 "Of — 1 Sing"

97 Shoe

98 Coast or tower

99 Profusion

100 Mubarak

101 Cliché

102 Partisan

103 Sound

104 Lamb

105 Terry

106 Asian river

107 Tear into pieces

108

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French Assembly clears way for treaty approval

Irish say 'yes' to Maastricht

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Irish voters put European Union firmly back on track with a resounding "yes" in favour of the Maastricht Treaty, early referendum returns showed Friday.

"I think it is a very clear-cut decision," an obviously relieved Prime Minister Albert Reynolds told Irish State Radio.

"I am very pleased and delighted... this will give Ireland a big boost in status," he said as returns showed voters solidly backing the accord on closer European union by a majority of about 2-1.

"It's yes, yes, yes right across the country to Maastricht," one jubilant dealer at Davy Stockbrokers in Dublin said just 30 minutes into the count.

After Denmark's shock rejection of the treaty in a referendum two weeks ago, the European Community (EC) had been holding its breath.

A "no" vote in Ireland would have effectively killed the treaty agreed in December in the Dutch town.

Tallymen, officials from all the main parties who oversee counting equipped just with pencils, notebooks and a sharp eye, reported a comfortable "yes" majority in all major rural areas.

Agriculture Minister Joe Walsh was as ebullient as Mr. Reynolds after the initial returns, telling reporters: "I think the 'yes' vote will win by a comfortable majority."

The only major inroads made by the "no" campaign appeared

to be in working-class areas around Dublin, the tallymen said.

The "yes" vote boosted jittery markets with the punt and government bonds edging higher, analysts said.

Mr. Reynolds had warned the Irish of dire economic consequences if they turned their backs on Europe — job losses, a flight of foreign capital and higher inflation.

Ranged against the four main political parties and the chief farming, trade union and business leaders was a "rainbow coalition" of environmentalists, supporters of Ireland's neutrality and pro-and anti-abortion campaigners.

Mr. Reynolds, criticised for conducting a lacklustre campaign that left many people confused over the issues, had feared a low turnout.

But official indications suggested more than half of Ireland's 2.5 million voters turned out at the polls.

Ireland, one of the poorest EC states, receives six punts for every punt it puts into the Community coffers.

In a 1972 referendum, the Irish enthusiastically embraced the decision to join the Community with 80 per cent in favour.

In Paris, the National Assembly approved constitutional amendments Friday that clear the way for approval of the treaty to bind the 12-nation European Community closer together.

The deputies voted 388 to 43 for EC-required amendments to transfer some government pow-

ers to the 12-nation community and to let French residents from other EC nations vote in local elections.

The vote was a victory for President Francois Mitterrand, a major backer of European unity who has pressed hard for French approval of the controversial treaty of Maastricht.

If the constitutional amendments are approved in a joint vote by the Assembly and the Senate, the treaty could go before voters in a referendum as early as September.

The Maastricht Treaty would give Europe a common currency, central bank and foreign and defence policies by 1999.

France had not planned to hold a public vote, but Mr. Mitterrand gave in to opposition demands for a referendum after Danish voters rejected the treaty on June 2.

The French deputies put aside their differences with Senate-proposed amendments at 4 a.m. Friday and approved the upper house's version.

"All of us, above our partisan preferences... have voted for the hope and future of France and Europe," said Justice Minister Michel Vauzelle.

The election issue was a major sticking point for treaty opponents, led by the Rally for the Republic Party. All but one of its 126 assembly members abstained from Friday's vote. The one member who voted opposed the amendments.

"I've never seen so many indignities," said party Secretary-

General Alain Juppe.

Meanwhile Greek Premier Constantine Mitsotakis Thursday said Greece will not hold a referendum on the Maastricht Treaty but seek its quick approval in parliament.

"There will be no referendum and parliament will ratify the treaty in the quickest possible time and after consultation with all parties," Mr. Mitsotakis told the 300-member unicameral parliament. He did not rule out the possibility that it will be approved in an emergency parliamentary session this summer. Parliament recessed Friday until September.

"For our government, Greek participation in a united Europe is and will be our first national choice," he added.

Mr. Mitsotakis was replying to a question on the Irish referendum on the treaty.

All Greek political parties, with the exception of the small Greek Communist Party, openly favour approving the treaty, which needs majority approval for ratification. The Communists have seven seats in parliament.

It is not known how parliament will react to the treaty if the EC recognises the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at next week's summit in Lisbon.

Greece has been trying to block international recognition for the republic unless it changes its name. It says the republic usurped an ancient Greek name and has claims to its own northern province of Macedonia.



A Muslim guard in Sarajevo fires on Serb forces during fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Fighting forces U.N. vehicles back from Sarajevo airport

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Fighting forced two U.N. vehicles to retreat from Sarajevo's Serb-held airport early Friday, delaying work to open up runways for relief flights.

Sarajevo's 300,000 residents have been reduced to eating grass, nettles and weeds to stay alive. They are under siege by Serb forces fighting Muslims and Croats, who voted 2 1/2 months ago to secede from Yugoslavia.

Rocket and heavy machine gunfire jarred residents north of the old city centre before dawn. Serb attackers and the city's Muslim-led defenders traded fire around the fiercely contested Marshal Tito Barracks abandoned two weeks ago by the Yugoslav army. Shelling also echoed around the Muslim old town.

U.N. officials hopeful of realising a 2-week-old agreement to reopen the airport were optimistic after 83 peacekeepers entered the airfield Thursday, said Adnan Abdul Razek, chief U.N. civilian officer in Sarajevo.

The United Nations got Serbian agreement almost two weeks ago to reopen Sarajevo's airport, persistent fighting has prevented peacekeepers from securing it.

Fierce fighting Tuesday and Wednesday ended a ceasefire that had brought a brief peace to the ravaged city.

Serb forces have signed an agreement to put their heavy weapons under U.N. supervision, U.N. spokeswoman Barbara Shannon Boyd said Thursday in Belgrade. U.N. negotiators are trying to get Bosnian government forces to do the same.

But shells continued to rain down on the pummelled suburb

of Dobrinja, near the airport today. Two vehicles carrying United Nations' liaison officers had to turn back, Mr. Abdul Razek said.

The situation in Dobrinja, an ethnically mixed high-rise suburb that housed athletes at the 1984 Winter Olympics, is desperate, with some of its 35,000 residents reportedly eating grass to survive.

Dobrinja is surrounded by Serb gunners who also have imposed a virtual blockade on Sarajevo for 2 1/2 months.

In a sign that lifted hopes of ending the blockade, a French relief convoy arrived Thursday, bringing some six tonnes of food to the city.

Hungry crowds flocked early Friday to the city market. Dozens of shoppers crowded a stall offering spinach for 300 dinars (about 20 cents) a bunch. Other stalls displayed what have become staples: Nettles, dock leaves and weeds, for about 200 dinars (12 cents).

"In normal times, we'd use this for tea, but now we eat it," said Saba Ademovic, a gray-haired elderly woman who collected greens from roadsides to sell.

Among Sarajevo's pressing needs in money. Dinar notes are running short and pensions and other social benefits have not been paid for weeks.

Even those on a relatively high salary of 50,000 dinars (\$30) who are still getting paid find it hard to get by. Biscuits at the market were selling for 66 cents a box.

Water is not running in several districts, and on the main Titova Street this morning, residents brought buckets to fill from a fire hose dangling from an open window.

Sarajevo has been under a tightening Serb siege since early April, when fighting intensified throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina after it was recognised as independent by the United States and Western Europe.

More than 5,700 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands made refugees since fighting started after Muslims and Croats, who form a majority in the republic, voted on Feb. 29 for independence.

Serbs, who make up about one-third of Bosnia's 4.3 million people, boycotted the vote and their leaders have promised to carve out a separate Serb state that would keep links with the Serb-dominated remnants of Yugoslavia.

Serb forces backed by the Serb-led Yugoslav army initially captured about two-thirds of Bosnia's territory, but Muslim and Croat forces now report some gains, particularly in western Herzegovina.

EC peace envoy Lord Carrington said Friday he would warn leaders of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina that Yugoslavia faces all-out war.

The European Community's (EC) special mediator Thursday called an urgent meeting of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia in Strasbourg for next Thursday.

"What I want to do is to emphasise to all three of those presidents that they really are on a road to all-out war," Lord Carrington told British Broadcasting Corporation radio.

Barbara wouldn't dance with Yeltsin — at first

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin was having what appeared to be a great day. Everything seemed to be going his way — a disarmament accord, meetings with President George Bush, adulation from Smithsonian tourists. Then his bubble was burst — but only briefly.

By none other than Barbara Bush when the first lady declined an invitation to dance at the White House state dinner held Tuesday night in his honour.

Later, however, Mrs. Bush took an after-dinner spin with the Russian leader in the hall. The burly Russian, after Mrs. Bush initially begged off, was overheard telling Mr. Bush, "I invited Barbara, she wouldn't dance with me." Instead, the Russian president danced with Robin Gerstner, wife of the chairman and chief executive officer of the tobacco and food corporation, RJR Nabisco. They were among the invitees to the prestigious dinner. Reporters couldn't discern why Mrs. Bush turned down her potential dance partner, but she didn't seem to mean anything personal by it. Normal White House protocol reserves dancing as a part of after-dinner entertainment. When reporters closed in on Mr. Yeltsin to ask his reaction to the day, she took his hand and pulled him away to mingle elsewhere. "I am being taken away," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Largest test of new phone technology launched

CHICAGO (AP) — Ameritech Corp. has launched a large market test of a new portable telephone technology that could revolutionise phone service by assigning numbers to people instead of locations. Ameritech began distributing pocket-sized folding telephones to 1,000 Chicago-area residents for an 18-month test of the "personal communications" service, or PCS, which replaces separate home, office and cellular phone numbers with one seven-digit number. "It's viewed by the industry as the next generation of the telephone network," said Berge Ayvazian, a communications analyst for Yankee Group Inc., a Boston-based communications research company. "The market for mobile telephones will expand beyond business users to the mass marketplace. By the end of the decade, we will have PCS as a new form of cellular technology," said Mr. Ayvazian, who called Ameritech's test the largest in the United States. PCS is a low-priced alternative to portable cellular phones, Mr. Ayvazian said. Today's cellular systems were designed for a smaller, more business-oriented market. "We're moving to a day where you would call a person and not a location," Ameritech spokesman Steve Forti said. "People want portability but they want it to be economical."

Happy birthday to 'the cute one'

LONDON (AP) — Paul McCartney spent his 50th birthday Thursday at his farm in the Buckle of Essex countryside doing what he loves best, playing rock 'n' roll. McCartney is concentrating on recording a new album, the 23rd since the breakup of the Beatles a little more than two decades ago, said his spokesman Geoff Baker of McCartney Productions Ltd. "He is not quiet at home, he is loudly in the studio with his band playing rock music," Baker said. "He will go into his studio today and plug in his guitar just like he has been doing every day recently." But McCartney also will take time to open cards and presents from friends and family — Linda, his wife of 23 years; their three daughters, Heather, Mary and Stella; and son, James. In an interview with Time magazine on his landmark anniversary, McCartney said, "I was thinking, what's this article going to be called? My bet's on 'Paul at fifty' so that everyone can go, 'What? He's fifty he isn't, is he? Bloody hell that makes me old' that's what they want. They want to use me as a gauge." Time said he laughed and said, "so use me as a gauge, and have a good time, and thank you very much for noticing me." The man known as "the cute one" of the fab four is the most successful songwriter in the history of the U.S. record industry, having written 32 No. 1 hits to John Lennon's 26, the magazine said. He has more gold and platinum discs, 75, than any other performer.

ANC warns of talks' future as 39 blacks massacred

BOIPATONG, South Africa (AP) — Attackers with guns, knives and machetes rampaged through a black squatter camp, killing at least 39 people, mostly women and children, police said Thursday.

"We have never seen an incident as horrific as the one we witnessed here," African National Congress (ANC) Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa told reporters after visiting the devastated Boipatong township.

"We charge (President) F.W. de Klerk and his government with complicity in this slaughter," he said. "This type of violence could lead to negotiations being derailed."

Mr. De Klerk said he felt "shock and revulsion" at the killings but did not directly respond to the accusation.

Bodies were strewn across the dirt roads and included those of a pregnant woman and a child less than a year old. A man and a woman, both hacked to death, remained wrapped in a blanket in a small shed where they tried to hide.

Mr. Ramaphosa said he had been told as many as 50 people were dead, but police put the figure at 39 late Thursday. Several people were hospitalised, many in serious condition.

The attack sparked a furious rampage by some residents who accused police of doing nothing to stop it and set fire to their homes. A distraught Boipatong policeman, watching his home and new car burn, grabbed his gun and aimed it at his head but was restrained by fellow officers.

Relations between the white-led government and the ANC are at one of the lowest points since negotiations on a new constitution began in December.

The government has accused the ANC of aggravating township violence by launching a campaign of strikes and protests this week to force political change. The ANC accuses government security forces of trying to undermine it by instigating bloodshed and siding with the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, the ANC's rival in a violent power-struggle.

It frequently has said talks were threatened by political violence, but it has not broken them off and has made clear it believes negotiations are the only way to form a multiracial democracy.

Boipatong residents said the attackers, who struck late Wednesday, spoke Zulu and came from an Inkatha workers' hostel in the area. ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa claimed police brought the killers in, then drove away as they kicked in doors, smashed windows and went on a four-hour crime spree.

Police Capt. Eugene Opperman denied the accusation. "So far, the allegations are that it was Inkatha Freedom Party supporters... who attacked," he said.

Gen. Johan Van Der Merwe, the commissioner of police, said resident's allegations would be investigated.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan unveils model of FS-X fighter

KOMAKI, Japan (R) — Japan unveiled a life-size model of its controversial FS-X fighter Friday, four years after it began joint development of the plane with the United States. Senior Japanese air force officers said the mock-up was shown to the media to dispel rumours that the project was faltering due to a row between Tokyo and Washington over the transfer of advanced Japanese technology in the project. The FS-X, based on the American General Dynamics F-16 fighter, is to make its first test flight in 1995. Production is to begin in 1999. Lieutenant-General Kiyoshi Matsumiya, head of the project, criticised the recent report by an agency of the U.S. Congress. This charged Japan with hiding advanced radar technology and being to blame for rising defence costs.

Lithuania calls early elections

VILNIUS, Lithuania (R) — The Baltic state of Lithuania, bogged down in political and economic crisis since winning independence from the Soviet Union, has fixed early parliamentary elections for Oct. 25. A local journalist said the divided parliament, where leftist parties hold a slim majority over radicals and nationalists, agreed the election date Thursday and would meet next week to debate a draft electoral law. Political paralysis in Lithuania was aggravated by a referendum last month in which low turnout foiled a bid by the nationalists to create a strong executive presidency. The outcome was a blow to parliamentary Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, the nationalist leader who steered Lithuania's successful independence drive and was favourite to win the proposed presidency. Mr. Landsbergis promptly accused ex-Communists in parliament of attempting a "creeping coup" and demanded polls as early as August to replace the current assembly, elected in 1990 for five years.

2 U.N. troops injured

PHNOM PENH (R) — A Bangladeshi peace keeping soldier was seriously injured in a landmine explosion in northwestern Cambodia Friday, the United Nations said. Another Bangladeshi soldier was less seriously injured in the explosion. U.N. field radio transmissions monitored by Reuters said. The seriously hurt soldier was flown to Bangkok, capital of neighbouring Thailand, for urgent treatment of eye injuries. Eric Falt, a spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said: "His eyes were perforated. He was transferred to the German hospital in Phnom Penh with excessive bleeding. He is being transported by a U.N. Beechcraft airplane to Bangkok," Mr. Falt said.

12 killed in Georgia helicopter crash

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — A military helicopter carrying medical supplies crashed in the Caucasus mountains near the embattled South Ossetian capital of Tskhinvali, killing 12 people, an official said. Ethnic fighting has escalated in the region, but there was no indication from the initial reports that the helicopter was shot before it crashed. The ITAR-TASS News Agency said experts had ruled out foul play. Lt. Gen. Sufiyev Beppayev, deputy commander of the Trans-Caucasian Military District, said the MI-8 transport helicopter had been used to fly families of officers of the former Soviet army from Tskhinvali, in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, to the North Ossetian capital Vladikavkaz, which is part of Russia.

Sons of late Robert Maxwell arrested

LONDON (AP) — Police Thursday arrested two of Robert Maxwell's sons and charged them in the disappearance of millions of dollars in pension funds from the late publishing magnate's financial empire. Kevin and Ian Maxwell were charged with conspiring to defraud, as was a third man, Larry Trachtenberg, a former director of a private Maxwell company that managed pension funds, the serious fraud office said. Kevin Maxwell and Mr. Trachtenberg also were charged with theft. Police seized papers, files, photographs and computer disks from the Maxwells' homes, said Press Association, Britain's national news agency. The three men were picked up at their homes and taken to a police station for questioning, said a spokeswoman for the Serious Fraud Office who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Fresh Thai elections seen by September

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's interim government will hold a general election in late August or early September, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Pow Sarasin said. "Our most important task is to organise free and fair elections," Mr. Pow told reporters. Caretaker Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun appointed Mr. Pow to oversee elections following last month's political crisis when troops opened fire on pro-democracy demonstrators in Bangkok. Mr. Anand was appointed transitional leader last week, replacing General Suchinda Kraprayoon who was forced to resign in May following the bloodshed. Mr. Anand's term in office has no fixed duration and he had been expected to call elections after four months.

WEU agrees on new military role

BONN (R) — The nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) agreed Friday to take on a new military role which would allow it to deploy intervention forces in trouble spots like Yugoslavia, sources at a ministerial meeting said.

Foreign and defence ministers from the WEU nations agreed at the Bonn meeting they would use troops in humanitarian or peacekeeping missions.

The sources said they also agreed that the WEU could get involved in Gulf war-style military intervention outside the borders of NATO.

All members of the WEU are in NATO and the European Community and the organisation, a long-dormant defence forum, has been singled out as the future military arm of the EC.

The WEU groups Germany, France, Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Meanwhile U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is giving the military new leeway to plan for the possibility it might be forced to cut its forces in Europe below the current 150,000 level, a senior Pentagon official said Thursday.

"It's the prudent thing to do. We are always looking at what-if," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official stressed that the Bush administration has no intention of making any such reductions at this time.

However, pressure has been building amid the nation's economic troubles to slash foreign deployments, and the House recently approved a fiscal 1993 defence bill that would reduce U.S. forces in Europe to 100,000 by 1995.

Azeri offensive in Karabakh blocked

GORIS, Armenia (R) — Armenian forces have blocked a major Azeri offensive in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia's Defence Ministry said Friday.

But the warring sides appear to be preparing for a showdown over the strategic enclave and are drafting reinforcements.

Thousands of refugees continued to flee sporadic battles, apparently with little faith in international peace efforts.

A twin-pronged Azeri advance in northwestern Karabakh, involving scores of tanks and armoured personnel carriers, was rebuffed Thursday before it could reach the regional centre of Mardakert, the Defence Ministry said.

"There is still some sporadic shooting around Askeran (another Armenian stronghold further south)," spokesman Gagik Artunyan said.

In the Armenian border town of Goris, local commanders said both sides were reinforcing positions close to the strategic corridor leading to Karabakh's fortress city of Shusha.

"They're still building up their weapon supplies for a big attack. They're shooting from the south... but it hasn't been a serious threat so far," said Aharon, an Armenian officer.

"Now we are bringing in Grad (multiple-launch) rockets to post along the corridor to stop them from attacking us," he said as a truck loaded with missiles sped by a checkpoint.

It said the Armenian-controlled "humanitarian corridor" linking the towns of Lachin and Shusha was open and functioning, although Azeri media reported Thursday that Azerbaijan's national army was closing in on the area.

Azerbaijan accuses Armenia of using the corridor to reinforce troops inside Karabakh, where regional authorities this week imposed a month-long state of emergency.

About 2,000 people have been

U.S. investigators find no evidence of PoW in Gulag

PECHORA, Russia (AP) — U.S. investigators said Friday they found no evidence that an American prisoner of war was imprisoned in a Stalin-era labour camp in northern Russia. But they said they would continue pursuing information on hidden American PoWs.

The Russian side of a joint commission said it turned up new evidence ethnic Germans had been held at camp No. 5, one of 10 prisons in the remote Pechora region where Soviet leaders sent dissidents as well as criminals.

"The information... will require additional research," said Col. Anatoly Volkov, the Russian's spokesman. He gave no more details.

Stalin imprisoned thousands of Soviets and others who he believed sympathised with Nazi Germany.

"We found no evidence of the presence of an American," said William Davnie, a political officer at the U.S. embassy in Moscow and commission member.

"But work will continue and our report will be made public only after everything has been analysed," Davnie said at a news conference here after visiting camp No. 5, about 1,500 kilometres northeast of Moscow.

The U.S. investigators have been spurred on by President Boris Yeltsin's talk this week of the possibility American PoWs are still in Russia.

"We don't have any Americans here," Maj. Gen. Leonid Khamluk, chief of the Pechora area of northern Russia, said Thursday. He oversees about 10 labour camps built before and during World War II.

The American investigators arrived in the Pechora area Thursday to probe reports a U.S. pilot held near their was still alive.

The trip was quickly organised following the disclosure by Yeltsin that U.S. prisoners of war held in the Soviet Union during the Vietnam War might still be on Russian soil.

U.S. officials have said Mr. Yeltsin's leads were puzzling but will be thoroughly checked.

In Israel Thursday, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev denied he knew American PoWs from the Vietnam War were transferred to the Soviet Union, as Mr. Yeltsin claimed. "I know nothing of the existence of such facts that Yeltsin was talking about," Mr. Gorbachev said at a news conference.

The delegation had said it was searching for a man believed to be calling himself David Marken. A private American group searching for PoWs, the Ark Project, said it believed the man being sought near Pechora was 1st Lt. Robert Martin, who was taken prisoner by North Korea during the Korean War. Further information about him was unavailable.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said in Washington that the investigators had received information that an American PoW might have been at the camp "as recently as 18 months ago."

Soldiers, inmates and prison

officials all said there were no Americans present.

"We hear some rumours that somebody was around here, but nobody has ever seen him. And I don't believe them," said 18-year-old Alexander Babenko, one of a half-dozen young soldiers posted at a guard house overlooking the camp.

The joint commission, headed by Russian Gen. Dmitri Volkogonov and former U.S. Ambassador Malcolm Toon, said in March it had found no evidence of American servicemen for the Vietnam or Korean wars in the former Soviet Union.

But it did produce death certificates of eight Americans who were held in Soviet prison camps following World War II. It was not known whether they were U.S. servicemen or Nazi sympathisers.

Russia is hampered by voluminous files that until now had been classified, many of them in handwritten, with no cataloguing or indexing.

killed in the past four years of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mostly by Armenians but placed under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction in 1923.

Thousands have fled their homes and eyewitnesses from Karabakh capital Stepanakert said refugees were streaming out of Mardakert and the nearby Shaumyan Valley.

The Armenian Defence Ministry had no information on casualties in the latest battles, which followed a series of Azeri military setbacks in recent months, culminating in the loss of the Shusha stronghold.

Nagorno-Karabakh parliament foreign affairs spokesman Levon Shakhnazarov told Reuters "all-out partisan war" had been declared on the territory held by the Azeri forces.

The parliament and government ordered a general mobilisation and gave extra powers to the enclave's defence council, whose membership was expanded from five to 11.

Handwritten note: "The article is 1250"